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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

January 9, 1995

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Two more members inducted into 4-H Hall of Fame

The Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame is two members stronger after inductions of new members last weekend.

Irene Smith of Vermilion and Larry Williams of Camrose officially entered the provincial 4-H Hall of Fame at ceremonies held during the 53rd annual *Alberta 4-H Leaders' Conference* on January 7. The conference was in Calgary January 6 through 8.

"Our 43 Hall of Famers all share a dedication and commitment beyond the ordinary," says Ted Youck, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics and 4-H branch. "Like their 41 peers, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Williams have demonstrated an abiding allegiance to the 4-H movement and to the youth who learn and grow through 4-H activities," he adds.

Smith's tie to 4-H began in 1976 when she became leader of the Vermilion 4-H Light Horse Club. Since that time she's been an active member of the Vermilion River District 4-H Council and the Northeast Regional Council,provincial committees and with leadership development programs.

"Her list of 4-H accomplishments and involvements is a very long one, including representing Alberta at Western Canadian and national conferences," notes Youck.

Smith's involvement in her community extends beyond 4-H and includes the local music festival, agricultural society, community clubs, choirs, museum society and a pony club. As her nomination aptly described: "When it comes to helping her community to be a better place to grow up and live, Irene is always *very happy to help out.*"

Williams has been active in 4-H at district, provincial, national and international levels. His involvement stretches back to 1948 when he started work as an Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist and helped form 4-H clubs in the County of Flagstaff. Williams was Camrose district agriculturist from 1954 to 1978.

"While his association has been professional, his nominators pointed out that Larry's dedication has gone far beyond what would be expected of an employee," says Youck. "In the nominator's words, he has spent many hours of his own time furthering the causes of 4-H and has always had time to spend with young people, whether to discuss their 4-H project or a career in agriculture."

Williams is a recognized leader in the Camrose community. He is or has been an active member of the city's Chamber of Commerce agriculture committee, the Camrose Regional Exhibition and Camrose Agricultural Development Committee. His community involvement includes a variety of professional, service and agricultural organizations.

Williams also served as a member of the 4-H Foundation of Alberta. Even after he was no longer a foundation member, he continued to represent the foundation at Camrose 4-H events when needed. He still attends the area beef show and sale and has purchased 4-H calves.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

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IT

The Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame is located on the second floor of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's headquarters, the J.G. O'Donoghue building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton.

Contact: *Mahlon Weir*
(403) 422-4444

Alberta Agriculture improves video service

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD) is improving its video service and making it more accessible to both industry and the public.

Improvements include system expansion, better distribution and updated detailed liner descriptions says C.D. (Doug) Radke the department's deputy minister.

"Our library system is one of the most comprehensive audio/visual collections for the agriculture and food industry in Canada," says Radke. "We will be expanding from our current system of a central library in Edmonton and sub-libraries in our 53 district offices. Requests have come from improvement districts, schools and municipalities to make our collection available to them."

As well, there'll be a more formalized system for distributing department-produced videos. "Corporate, institutional, and organizational markets will be able to purchase items from our collection. Such enhanced access will increase private sector involvement in our service," he says.

To help finance the system, the department will be instituting modest library service charges. "These fees take effect on January 3, 1995, and will cover costs such as duplicating, handling, and library servicing and not production costs," notes Radke.

Annual library memberships for individual Albertans are $12 or $2 per individual title. Corporations, organizations, institutions, and out-of-province customers will be charged $25 for memberships or $10 per individual title.

"These organizational memberships will allow those customers to preview titles in our collection before making a purchase," he says. "It's really one of the best bargains around. A library membership gives the client access to 125 titles in each district library plus the collection consisting of 850 titles in the central Multi-Media Library in Edmonton."

Some titles will continue to be offered free-of-charge as a public service. These include 4-H programs, safety programs and programs about government services. The Agriculture in the Classroom series will be free for teacher Agricultural Ambassadors.

Contact: *C.D. Radke*
Deputy Minister
(403) 427-2145

Ron Brown
Head, Multi-Media
(403) 427-2127

Ministers' meeting results in new Alberta safety net proposal

Following agreement by federal and provincial ministers on a new national safety-net framework, Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Minister Walter Paszkowski has presented a formal request to the federal government for a new safety-net program for Alberta farmers.

The new Alberta approach covers three main areas: establishing a whole-farm income stabilization program, getting out of the federal-provincial Gross Revenue Insurance Plan (GRIP) and reviewing crop insurance.

Alberta's safety-net proposal is clearly consistent with decisions made at the December 19 federal-provincial agriculture ministers' meeting in Toronto says Paszkowski. "We are asking the federal government to work with us in the refinement of this new approach," he says.

The proposal is also consistent with Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's three-year business plan in strengthening the agriculture and food industry's capability to manage risk and uncertainty in the rapidly changing global market.

A set of individual accounts, similar in some ways to the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA), would serve as Alberta's new base whole-farm income stabilization program. This approach would be combined with the GATT 70 concept developed by Alberta farmers. Key features of this approach require farmers to be responsible for normal income variations with government providing support only when net income falls by more than 30 per cent. As a result, trade risks would be minimized.

Alberta's proposal includes a request to negotiate an early withdrawal from GRIP. "GRIP has done its job in Alberta," says Paszkowski. "What is needed now is a trade-neutral, non-commodity specific approach which will minimize countervail risks and which will not influence decisions being made on the farm. Our new approach answers concerns on both these trade and domestic policy levels."

Alberta's proposal to seek approval for ending GRIP on a voluntary basis includes the option for farmers to exit the program without giving a two-year notice. The details for early voluntary exit are still being developed. When GRIP was introduced in 1990, changes were made to crop insurance to accommodate the new program. As Alberta moves to get out of GRIP, a crop insurance review will be necessary to maintain or enhance the integrity of the program.

"The new direction for farm income stabilization comes from farmers themselves," says Paszkowski. Representatives from nearly all commodity organizations joined together to form the Alberta Farm Safety Net Coalition. Together this group and the Alberta government developed objectives and criteria for safety-net coverage and the GATT 70 approach.

Cont'd on page 3

"The feedback we get from farmers is that they want a market-responsive, trade-friendly and non-distorting support program," says the minister. He adds continued farmer involvement in the safety-net issue is crucial to the implementation of the new package. Such involvement will play a strong part in any future action on the issue.

Contact: *Dwight Dibben*
Executive assistant to the minister
(403) 427-2137

C.D. Radke
Deputy minister
(403) 427-2145

Bob Splane
President and Managing Director
Agriculture Financial Services Corporation
(403) 679-1302

Commercial berry production school Feb. 2-3

Anyone interested in commercial berry growing can learn more about this expanding industry at the ninth annual *Commercial Berry Production School* February 3 and 4 in Red Deer.

"The school helps keep berry producers current on the latest in production and marketing and also provides information for people starting in the industry," says Lloyd Hausher, Alberta Agriculture fruit crop specialist.

Day one of the school opens with general sessions on the Alberta berry industry, opportunities for growth, signage, customer expectations, site selection and required equipment.

"After lunch the focus gets specific, and turns to particular types of berries," notes Hausher. "First up are raspberries."

The raspberry session starts with individual looks at summer fruiting and primocane (fall-bearing) raspberry production including varieties, plant spacing, fertility, irrigation, crop management and yields. There's also a review of raspberry pests--insects, diseases and weeds — and how to control them. As well, experienced growers will give a brief overview of how they got started and their current operation.

Strawberries and saskatoons are the focus of day two. "We'll start with a detailed look at both Junebearing and day-neutral strawberry production," notes Hausher.

Other strawberry topics are irrigation management, field cooling, frost protection, winter mulching, and weed, insect and disease control.

An overview of saskatoon production plus grower presentations wrap-up the day.

"You can register for the whole school, or one of the two days depending on your interest," he says. "Pre-registration will also save you money, and Alberta Market Gardeners Association members also get a price break," he adds.

One-day pre-registration costs $20 for members and $30 for non-members. Complete school registration is $35 for members and $45 for non-members

At the door, one-day registration is $25 for members and $35 for non-members. Two-day registration is $45 per person for members and $55 for non-members.

The *Commercial Berry Production School* will be held at the North Hill Inn in Red Deer. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.

For more information about the school, registration or berry production, contact Hausher in Brooks at (403) 362-3391. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Lloyd Hausher*
(403) 362-3391

Pick up "Pick of the Crop"

Consumer demand continues to stimulate the provincial berry industry and offers farmers and acreage owners an opportunity to diversify says Alberta Agriculture's fruit crop specialist.

"Strawberry, raspberry and saskatoon farm numbers have continued to increase," says Lloyd Hausher of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

"Strong demand for locally grown fruit consumers can buy directly from producers is one of the main factors for this growth," he adds. "That demand also makes berry production a diversification option with real potential."

Albertans interested in commercial berry production can go to school for two days next month, February 3 and 4. The ninth annual *Commercial Berry Production School* is co-sponsored by Alberta Agriculture and the Alberta Market Gardeners Association.

"General business topics such as customer expectations, specifics on growing saskatoons, strawberries and raspberries, and experienced growers sharing their stories are all on the agenda," notes Hausher.

As well, Hausher recommends potential berry growers to view an Alberta Agriculture video, Pick of the Crop. "The video provides basic information about what you need to start berry crop production," he says.

The video is available for loan from all Alberta Agriculture district office video libraries.

For more information about berry production or the commercial school, contact Hausher in Brooks at (403) 362-3391. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Lloyd Hausher*
(403) 362-3391

Low sulphur diesel and your diesel engine

The advent of low sulphur diesel fuel has some farmers wondering whether this fuel will damage their engines says Alberta Agriculture's energy engineer.

"The other half of the question is whether they can use regular sulphur diesel fuel in newer diesel engines designed to burn cleaner and use low sulphur fuel," says John Chang. This new generation of diesel engines were introduced to the Canadian marketplace with the 1995 model year. They hit the U.S. market in 1993.

The answer to the first question of whether low sulphur diesel will damage older diesel engines is no. Low sulphur has been around before this fall. In fact, notes Chang, low sulphur diesel has actually been around Alberta for some time. "Most major petroleum companies here have been making low sulphur diesel for over five years, one as long as 10 years. So, diesel engines have most likely been running on low sulphur diesel for years."

Chang adds that reports from the U.S. about engine problems due to low sulphur diesel were misleading. "Many problems with fuel system leakage in California and some other areas were initially attributed to low sulphur diesel. Investigation indicated the problems were due to low aromatic content of some special diesel fuels."

If the question is will a 1995 model diesel engine be damaged by using regular sulphur diesel, the answer is "it depends". "If your vehicle is equipped with a catalytic converter or trap — all heavy duty and some medium duty truck engines — manufacturers says damage shouldn't occur. However, the engine will exceed the particulate emission limit it was designed to meet," explains Chang.

On the other hand, if the 1995 diesel vehicle is equipped with a catalytic converter or trap — some medium duty truck engines and all light duty engines — manufacturers caution prolonged use of regular sulphur diesel could cause serious and permanent damage to the exhaust after-treatment device.

"Using regular sulphur diesel might also affect your warranty coverage," warns Chang. "To be sure, consult with your vehicle manufacturer."

Chang adds fuel additives are generally not needed or recommended.

Farmers who have bought 1995 model diesel vehicles should read their owner's manual or talk to

their vehicle manufacturer to determine what type of diesel fuel is recommended for their vehicle recommends Chang.

"Then, talk to your fuel supplier to make sure you are getting the right type of fuel. All suppliers have fuel quality specialists who can answer your questions," he says.

Contact: *John Chang*
(403) 427-2181

What is low sulphur diesel

Low sulphur diesel began appearing at retail outlets on October 1, but many people are still wondering what low sulphur diesel is, what diesel is supplied to the off-road market and what effects the low sulphur diesel has on their engines.

"New engine technology in a new generation of cleaner burning diesel engines requires low sulphur diesel," explains Alberta Agriculture energy engineer John Chang.

The new diesel engines were introduced in the U.S. in 1993. They arrived in the Canadian marketplace with the 1995 model year.

Low sulphur diesel fuel has a maximum 0.05 per cent by weight sulphur content. The maximum sulphur content for regular sulphur diesel in Canada is 0.5 per cent.

Most petroleum companies, through an agreement with the federal government, committed to supply low sulphur diesel at retail outlets starting October 1, 1994. These outlets include service stations, on-road cardlocks and keylocks, and truck stops.

At retail outlets, low sulphur diesel is identified by a decal on the pump. The circular label reads: Low sulphur diesel, 0.05 per cent maximum. The fuel is clear in color.

"Because some non-participating retailers might not offer low sulphur diesel, if you need low sulphur diesel always look for the label or talk to the station operator," advises Chang.

The off-road diesel fuel market is still mainly supplied with regular sulphur diesel. "Anyone, including farmers, who purchases bulk or off-road diesel should assume they're mostly likely getting regular sulphur diesel not the low sulphur diesel."

"The color of marked diesel fuel isn't an indication of the sulphur content," he adds. "Farm diesel fuel is marked to designated the tax-exempt fuel."

Purple dye is now used to color marked farm diesel fuel in Alberta. Regular sulphur diesel sold through the retail, on-highway market is dyed green in Alberta. Depending on whether the bulk fuel started as low sulphur — clear — or as regular sulphur — green, Alberta farm fuel now ranges from purple to brown.

"Fuel suppliers may be able to supply low sulphur diesel to farm customers, especially as the demand for it increases," he says.

Chang recommends that farmers who have bought 1995 model diesel vehicles should read their owner's manual or talk to their vehicle manufacturer to determine what type of diesel fuel is recommended for their vehicle. Then, they should talk to their fuel suppliers to make sure they are getting the right type of fuel. All suppliers have fuel quality specialists who can answer questions.

Contact: *John Chang*
(403) 427-2181

New Year time for knowledge resolution

If your 1995 New Year's resolution is to become better informed, consider an Alberta Agriculture home study course.

"Courses cover subjects from livestock production to financial planning," says Faye Douglas Phillips, co-ordinator of the instructional design unit. "There are software packages for cow/calf operators and a financial planning software program that can be tailored to any type of production."

Home study courses are usually split into sections and lead the farmer or farm family through the particular subject, step-by-step. Courses are designed so participants can work through them at their own pace.

"Winter is usually a good time to start a course because the pace around many farming operations slows down," she notes.

Financial and business planning courses include *Financial Files, Retirement Files, Understanding Profit, The Business of Farming* and *Home-based Business Opportunities for Farm Families*. These courses range in price from $15 to $35 dollars. *Farm Financial Planning Worksheets* is a $150 software analysis program.

Livestock production courses include the *Beef Herd Management Reference Binder and Study Guide, Cattle Nutrition, Animal Health, Dairy Production*

and *Pork Production*. Course prices range from $35 to $50.

There are two livestock software packages— *Cowchip$* at $300 and *Cowbytes* at $75. Another nutrition ration program, *Dairybytes*, is scheduled for release in 1995.

Two crop production courses are also available, *Crop Protection* and *Soils*. Each is $30.

For more information or to order one of the home study courses, contact any Alberta Agriculture district office or the home study program instructional design unit, 2nd Floor, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Contact: *Faye Douglas Phillips*
(403) 427-2171

Alberta Agriculture appointments

New economic services director named

Glen Werner brings 21 years of experience with Alberta Agriculture to his new position as director of the department's economic services division. "Glen brings solid field and management experience coupled with a strong academic background to his new job," says Ray Bassett, assistant deputy minister of planning and development.

The economic services division includes the farm business management, market analysis and statistics, production economics and agricultural transportation branches.

Werner says he sees the division as have a key partnership role with other parts of the department. "This role will be important as we work together towards accomplishing Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's business plan," he says.

Werner began his career with Alberta Agriculture in 1973 as a district agriculturist in Sedgewick. He spent seven years there and the same length time as senior district agriculturist in Stettler. He was also south central region director based in Airdrie for seven years. Most recently Werner was director of strategic change for field services.

Originally from eastern Saskatchewan, Werner grew up in the farming district of Yorkton. He holds a BSc. in agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan and a masters' degree in rural sociology and farm management from the University of Alberta.

Werner takes over his new role in the New Year. He can be reached in Edmonton at (403) 427-7311.

Coronation district beef specialist appointed

Susan Markus is Alberta Agriculture's newest district specialist, a beef specialist based in Coronation.

Markus comes to Alberta from Manitoba where she spent four years as an agriculture representative for that province's agricultural department. She was based in Boissevain and worked with cattle, PMU and grain producers.

"Providing an unbiased source of information on cattle management, production and nutrition to increase cattlemen's knowledge and the efficiency of the beef industry" is how she describes her new job.

Markus' Manitoba background extends to her birth and growing up years. She was raised on a mixed farm near The Pas.

Her educational background includes a BSAg in animal science and extension from the University of Saskatchewan and a MSc in animal science (livestock nutrition) from the University of Manitoba.

Markus can be reached in Coronation at (403) 578-3970 or 1-800-387-6030.

Agri-News briefs

Provincial 4-H leaders gathered in Calgary

About 275 volunteer 4-H leaders and key leaders were in Calgary on the weekend for the 1995 Alberta 4-H Leaders' Conference. "The annual conference is designed to help leaders broaden their 4-H knowledge, add to their leadership skills, provide an opportunity to share with peers and recognize volunteer leaders' contribution to 4-H," says conference chair Mahlon Weir of Alberta Agriculture's home economics and 4-H branch. The 53rd annual conference was January 6 through 8. Workshop sessions covered active listening, time management, learning styles, stress and developing a humor habit. As well, some sessions were geared specifically to 4-H activities including yearly 4-H diaries, strengthening district 4-H councils and a survival guide to running a 4-H club. At the wind-up banquet two people were inducted into the 4-H Hall of Fall. The inductees were Irene Smith of Vermilion and Larry Williams of Camrose. Guest 4-H leaders from other Western provinces and Montana, 4-H staff, sponsor representatives, Alberta 4-H Council members and Alberta 4-H Foundation directors also attended. The conference was hosted by the Calgary region. The 1996 conference will be hosted by the northwest region. For more information, contact Weir in Edmonton at (403) 422-4444.

Alberta Seed Growers meet February 1-3

The Alberta branch of the Canadian Seed Growers Association will hold its 66th annual meeting February 1 through 3 in Edmonton. Day one is an afternoon workshop on warehousing standards and seedgrowers cleaning and treating pedigreed seed. The meeting's keynote speaker is Greg Clarke, president of John Deere, who'll discuss high technology farming. For more information contact Bill Witbeck in Lacombe at (403) 782-4641 or through a Red Deer direct line at (403) 340-7152.

1995 Unifarm annual convention celebrates 25th anniversary

Unifarm will hold its annual convention and celebrate its 25th anniversary later this week in Edmonton. The three-day convention is January 10 through 12 at the Mayfield Inn. The convention agenda will reflect on Unifarm's 25 years of service, what's ahead and how a general farm organization can achieve its objectives. Speakers include Jack Wilkinson, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture; Susan Kitchen, executive director of the Alberta Foundation for Animal Care; David Andrews, agricultural representative on the Water Management Review Committee; Jack Swainson, pest management alternatives office; and, Connie Osterman, Alberta Taxpayer's Association. For more information contact Shirley Dyck in Edmonton at (403) 451-5912.

Re-inventing the food industry February 6-7

The 15th annual *Western Canadian Economic Conference on the Food Industry* is February 6 and 7 in Edmonton. The conference theme is re-inventing the food industry. Session topics include the new consumer, viable business structures, redrawing North American food borders, strategic market planning, challenges in selling to the U.S., ethnic food markets, animal welfare and flexible business networks. Registration discounts are available for three or more people from an organization, and if registering by January 20 or February 4. For more information contact the Rural Education and Development Association (REDA) in Edmonton at (403) 451-5959.

Production, uses of seeded native range plants seminar

Two seminars on producing and using seeded native range plants will be held in early February in two Saskatchewan locations. The first is February 1 in Swift Current and the second in Maple Creek on February 8. Seminar topics include range plants in their natural environment, promising forage and wildlife species and varieties, seed production, current Agriculture Canada research, present and future seed supply and demand, using native species in Production, uses of seeded native range plants seminar (cont'd) reclamation and other uses of native plants. For more information on the Swift Current seminar contact Pat Gerwing at (306) 778-8284, and on the Maple Creek seminar contact Daryl Tumbach at (306) 662-5447. You can also contact Zoheir Abougenda of the grazing and pasture technology program in Swift Current at (306) 778-8294.

People & Animals — ethics, rights and responsibilities course

The University of Alberta's extension faculty is offering a two day course titled *People & Animals — Ethics, Rights and Responsibilities* February 6 and 7. The course is designed for participants to learn skills to help separate fact from opinions, substance from rhetoric and become better information consumers. The instructor is Gilbert Proulx, director of science at Alpha Wildlife Research and Management. Proulx is also an adjunct professor at the university's renewable resource department as well as a certified wildlife biologist. Additional speakers will address specific topic areas. For more information contact Sheila Greenberg at (403) 492-3029.

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AGRI-NEWS

January 16, 1995

CANADIANA

JAN 22 1997

Clearing roadblocks priority for '95

The future of Canada's agrifood industry hinges on unlocking old patterns and policies so it can open the door to effectively compete in the new global marketplace says Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's minister.

"As long as our industry is held up by rigid policies of the past, it misses out on opportunities in the freer trade atmosphere provided by a new GATT agreement, NAFTA and the expansion of freer trade in all the Americas," says Walter Paszkowski.

"Domestic policies must be changed to put money back into producers' and processors' pockets," he adds. "Protectionism, the true impediment to industry growth, is being dismantled worldwide. Federal and provincial governments must change those policies so producers and processors can truly compete in world trade as well as meet GATT obligations."

A major obstacle is the current method of payment in the Western Grain Transportation Act (WGTA). Other concerns – and constraints – are interprovincial trade barriers, limited market choice through single desk buying and selling, and current safety net program design.

"These should be priorities for the federal government. Certainly here in Alberta we've outlined comprehensive plans for reform, changes that must not be delayed," says Paszkowski.

After a late December meeting of all Canada's agriculture ministers, Alberta outlined a proposal for a new safety net program. The three-pronged approach came from the province's farmers through the Alberta Farm Safety Net Coalition. The coalition included representatives from nearly all commodity organizations and worked with the Alberta government to develop objectives and criteria for safety-net coverage as well as the GATT 70 approach.

March 1, 1995 is the target date to complete details of a new federal/provincial safety net cost-sharing arrangement and program management.

"Safety net reform has a target. The same can't be said for other important issues such as transportation and trade. Action on these areas must occur before the country's annual agriculture ministers meeting in July," asserts Paszkowski. "Change must come. Delay breeds uncertainty, costs producers and hampers companies and individuals from capitalizing on business opportunities.

"The past year has been full of discussion, the New Year must be one of action. Action is required to make regulatory changes that will maintain and improve our competitive position. We must make the right changes and must make them as an all encompassing package," stresses the minister.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
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Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

"Without action our industry will lag behind competitors such as Australia which has been reforming its marketing and transportation systems since 1989.

"We can't afford to stand still and staying with the status quo will only cause us to go out of business quickly, just as the former Soviet Union went out of the grain trade," he adds.

Expanding and new markets are available for Alberta agrifood products. Paszkowski witnessed some of those opportunities during a trade mission to the Pacific Rim in July 1994. The mission met its goal of reinforcing existing ties as well as creating new markets in Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and China.

"One of the most revealing examples of changing markets I saw was with canola. When I was part of an Asian trade mission in 1991, buyers there weren't interested. Yet three short years later during this mission I took part in two major introductions of canola products," says Paszkowski.

"I'd rather look ahead than back. We all can look at what we can do better, whether it's value-adding, diversifying or marketing. Our future has to focus on growing what we can sell to meet customer needs and develop opportunities. We have to grow what we can sell, not simply try to sell what we are growing."

Alberta farmers will be assisted in accessing market opportunities while managing production and income risk through a new long-term safety net strategy he says.

Adapting to some changes may be challenging, however the focus has to be on the big picture and the long-term says Paszkowski. "Responding to changes and challenges isn't anything new for Alberta farmers, I'm confident in their abilities to adapt and thrive. Prospering depends on less restrictive domestic marketing and a transportation environment that will allow producers and processors to break through old limits and flourish in the new global marketplace. This global marketplace begins at the farm gate."

Contact: Dwight Dibben or Brian Hlus
Executive assistants to the minister
(403)427-2137

Weather review '94: warm and dry, good for farming

Alberta's average annual temperature was slightly warmer than normal and precipitation was below normal in 1994 says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

"Slight is the key qualification as the average annual temperature in 1994 was 0.3°C warmer than the average for the period 1961 to 1990," says Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch.

Average temperature is based on data recorded at 44 Environment Canada weather stations across the province. The same weather stations averaged 412.7 mm of precipitation, 22.4 mm below the 30 year average.

Generally 1994's weather was good for the farming community says Dzikowski. The year began with two months of below normal temperatures (see graph). "But for six of the next seven months, temperatures were above normal. This allowed farmers to get an early start to the growing season and provided good heat for crop growth and maturity," he says.

Precipitation was above normal for four of the first six months of 1994 (see graph). January in particular had a lot of precipitation with an average of 38.7 mm, 151 per cent of the long term average. February was also above normal, however March and April were extremely dry.

"Precipitation was above normal in May and June when crops needed the water to get established," he notes. June was the wettest month of 1994 with an average of 81.8 mm of rain, 109 per cent of the monthly June normal.

"A bit drier July caused some concerns and problems, especially in southern Alberta where crops were short of water during the critical grain filling stage. August brought some relief with above normal precipitation," adds Dzikowski.

Below normal precipitation in September combined with above normal temperatures in late August and September provided excellent harvest weather.

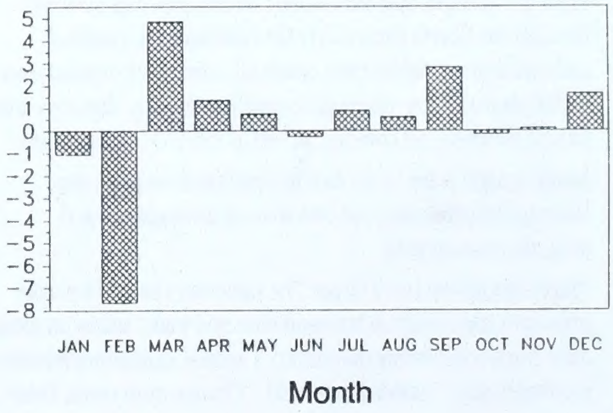
As well, the first widespread frost occurred on September 20, about 10 to 20 days later than the average first fall frost date.

"Then, the ideal harvest weather was followed by an early October winter snow storm in southern Alberta," he notes.

October weather was cool and wet with the average temperature 0.3°C below normal and total precipitation 59 per cent above normal. The last two months of 1994 had warm, dry conditions.

"Averages don't show that many parts of the province had very different conditions," notes Dzikowski. For example, the annual total precipitation at Vauxhall was 215.2 mm, 64 per cent of its long term average. This was typical for most of southern Alberta.

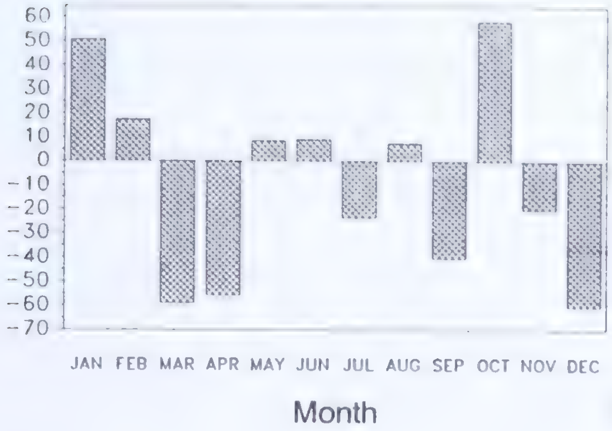
ALBERTA 1994 TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES
(Average for 44 Climate Stations)



Based on preliminary data from Environment Canada
Normal is defined as the 1961-90 Average

Cont'd on page 3

ALBERTA 1994 PRECIPITATION DEPARTURES
(Average for 44 Climate Stations)



Based on preliminary data from Environment Canada

In comparison, Grande Prairie received about three times that amount, 648.4 mm. That was 144 per cent of its 1961 through 1990 average. The Peace and central regions reported near normal to above normal precipitation amounts in 1994.

Contact: *Peter Dzikowski*
(403)422-4385

1994 ended with warm and dry December

December temperatures were above normal and precipitation was well below normal, so not all areas of the province had a white Christmas says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

"The average precipitation in Alberta of 8.9 mm was 13.7 mm below the 1961 to 1990 average for the month. The -9.8°C average monthly temperature for December was 1.6 degrees above the 1961 to 1990 normal," says Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch.

The averages are based on data recorded at 44 Environment Canada climate stations across the province.

Most Alberta locations received precipitation amounts below normal. "Many locations in southern Alberta received no precipitation for the entire month of December," he notes. Most of the south reported less than 10 mm, varying from 0 to 60 per cent of normal.

Below normal precipitation amounts were also reported in the Peace region. Central Alberta reported near normal precipitation totals, with the exception of Lacombe. Lacombe reported 27.6 mm of precipitation some 169 per cent of its December normal of 16.3 mm.

While December began with record breaking cold temperatures in the Peace and central regions, temperatures remained seasonal over the next week. By mid month, strong westerly chinook winds returned bringing warm temperatures to the province.

In southern Alberta, the winds and warm temperatures melted and evaporated the remaining snow on the ground. "The chinook winds also dominated the south's weather for the next two weeks," he adds. Temperatures reached the low teens.

"There was snow and colder weather to greet the New Year," says Dzikowski. "On December 28, winter conditions returned with five to 10 cm of snow falling on most of Alberta. The month ended with a blanket of snow on the ground and the colder Arctic air over most of Alberta."

Average temperatures for the month of December ranged from 5.1 degrees above normal to 1.5 degrees below normal.

Cardston reported the warmest monthly average in Alberta. Its -3.1°C was 2.7 degrees above normal. High Level reported -18.3°C, the coldest monthly average temperature. "However that was still 2.0 degrees above normal," says Dzikowski.

Three Hills reported the most variation from its long term average. Its -7.7°C was 5.1 degrees warmer than its long term average for December.

For more information, contact Peter Dzikowski in Edmonton at (403)422-4385. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Peter Dzikowski*
(403)422-4385

Use fill screens on air seeder tanks

Personal safety and better operation are two good reasons to leave fill screens on an airseeder tank when it's being filled says a project engineer at the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre.

"It's tempting not to use the fill screen because it can interfere with the spout and slow down what you auger into the tank," says Lawrence Papworth. "However, the fill screen is there for proper equipment operation and farm safety," he adds.

Recently a Saskatchewan farmer was trapped in his airseeder tank when he tried to retrieve a seed bag. Although he didn't suffer a serious injury, the possibility was there notes Papworth.

"If the fill screen supplied with the air seeder had been in place, then the farmer wouldn't have been locked in the tank," he adds.

Most recent air seeder models come with fill screens that fit in the tank opening. The fill screen's purpose is to prevent foreign objects or lumps of fertilizer from entering the tank.

"These clumps, lumps and other debris can damage the air seeder's metering system or plug the distribution system," explains Papworth. "So, the screens are designed to keep the whole system working properly."

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For more information on air seeders contact the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre in Lethbridge at (403)329-1212. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Lawrence Papworth*
(403)329-1212

No-till drills evaluated at AFMRC

The Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre has released evaluation reports on two no-till drills.

The reports are on the *Great Plains Solid Stand No-Till Drill* and the *John Deere 750 No-Till Drill*. "Both use conventional seed and fertilizer boxes and are popular in the U.S.," notes project engineer Lawrence Papworth.

"However, their openers are very different. One is more suitable for shallow seed depths, while the other can handle a wide variety of soil conditions," he adds.

The Great Plains opener consists of a coulter followed by a double disk opener. A packer wheel follows and controls the opener's depth. "This drill was suitable for seeding in a wide variety of soil conditions," he says. "Each end of the drill is supported by a large wheel. These wheels provide good support in all conditions so the drill maintains a consistent seed depth," he explains.

The John Deere no-till drill opener is a single disk followed by a press wheel and a closing wheel. A gauge wheel beside the disk controls the seeding depth.

"This unit worked well when seeding at shallow depths into moist untilled soils. Soil disturbance in these conditions was negligible," says Papworth.

Changing seed depth on both drills took a long time because openers were individually adjusted he adds. Each opener on the John Deere has five possible adjustments to control seed depth and soil packing.

Both drills placed fertilizer with seed, however the John Deere model offers an optional front row of openers for deep banding.

For a copy of either the *Great Plains Solid Stand No-Till Drill* or the *John Deere 750 No-Till Drill* evaluation report, or for more information on no-till drills, contact the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre in Lethbridge at (403)329-1212. Government numbers are toll-free in Alberta by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Lawrence Papworth*
(403)329-1212

Agricultural mechanics shortage in Alberta

A shortage of agricultural mechanics is one of the key issues facing Western Canadian equipment dealers

Everett Trempner, a Lethbridge equipment dealer and the Canada West Equipment Dealers Association representative on the Alberta Agricultural Engineering Advisory Committee (AAEAC), identified that shortage at a recent meeting of the AAEAC.

"While the primary shortage is agricultural mechanics, the shortage isn't limited to mechanics. Mr. Trempner also told the committee the equipment industry also needs sales and qualified parts people," says Darcy Fitzgerald, secretary of the AAEAC.

Trempner also says the dealers' association has been working with Canada Employment and several colleges to promote training in all three areas, particularly because the equipment industry sees a positive future.

In 1993 the equipment industry created 480 new jobs in Western Canada. An investment tax credit available in 1993 gave producers incentive to invest in new machinery.

"Even though the tax credit is gone, the equipment industry has seen positive growth in 1994, down only five per cent from 1993 levels," says Trempner. "The result is jobs."

The trend also extends to other areas of agricultural supply and services such as irrigation equipment, livestock buildings, and materials and equipment for specialty processing and production.

For more information on agricultural engineering issues, contact AAEAC members Trempner in Lethbridge at (403)329-6011 or Fitzgerald with Alberta Agriculture's engineering services branch in Edmonton, at (403)427-2181.

Contact: *Everett Trempner* *Darcy Fitzgerald*
(403)329-6011 *(403)427-2181*

Workshops detail diversification in elk, deer and bison

Two-day farm management workshops for elk, deer and bison producers will be offered one-per-month starting this week.

The elk, or wapiti, workshop is the first and runs January 17 and 18 at the Morinville Provincial Building. The deer farming workshop is February 22 and 23 in Smoky Lake. The bison farming workshop runs March 21 and 22 in Edmonton.

"Industry, agribusiness, government, producer and university speakers will discuss production, marketing, legislation, financing and business planning," says Bruce Friedel, Alberta Agriculture game farm specialist.

Cont'd on page 5

Space in the courses is limited to the first 20 registrants he adds. "So, if you're interested it's important to register as soon as possible."

Registration is $200 plus GST for a farm unit. To register, contact Friedel in Edmonton at (403)427-5083. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator

"Each workshop covers the same general areas, but also is specific to the particular type of livestock," notes Friedel. "For example, balancing wapiti rations, a deer enterprize analysis and parasite control in bison."

Each course starts with an overview of the industry, enabling legislation, the inspection and regulatory process and productivity of farmed stock. Other major topic areas are nutrition, herd health, facilities and fences, marketing stock and products, developing a business plan, producer management calendars and dealing with creditors.

For more information about the workshops or to register, contact Friedel in Edmonton at (403)427-5083. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Bruce Friedel
(403)427-5083

Courses investment in diversification planning

A series of five agricultural diversification courses – coming later this month and in February – offers potential students an opportunity to explore options and discover facts.

For the second year the Camrose Regional Exhibition and the University of Alberta faculty of extension have joined forces to present a series of two-day courses on a variety of agricultural diversification options.

First up are trout farming and flavors and flowers on January 27 and 28. Ostriches runs February 3 and 4. Food processing and goats for meat and milk both run February 17 and 18. All courses are at the Camrose Regional Exhibition.

Thom Shaw, manager of publications and special projects at the faculty of extension, says the course subjects are by demand. "In farm and other rural areas there's an interest in diversification in general and in agriculture in particular."

As they explore diversification options, people try to find something they like to do that is also financially viable he says. Comprehensive, practical courses allow those "explorers" to make a sound investment in planning for a diversification option.

Course tuition is $150 and includes 14 hours of instruction and 10 farm business management manuals. Registration can be by phone, fax or mail. "You can register in any two courses for $260 or register two people in the same course for $260," notes Shaw. "This discount works well for couples as well as people who are checking out more than one diversification option. For example, last year one student took three of the four courses and saw it as an investment in planning."

Each course features expert speakers including experienced producers as well as representatives from industry, university and government. Facts are explained and myths exploded through practical how-to and in-depth instruction.

"Courses are also designed to answer questions such as risks, financing, rewards and regulations," adds Shaw.

For more information or a copy of the course brochure, contact the faculty of extension in Edmonton at (403)492-3029.

Contact: Thom Shaw
(403)492-3885

Trout, flavors and flowers diversification courses

Trout farming and Alberta's new horticulture crops are the subject of separate two-day diversification courses January 27 and 28 in Camrose.

The trout farming and the flowers and flavors courses are the first in a series of five agricultural diversification courses offered jointly by the Camrose Regional Exhibition and the University of Alberta's faculty of extension.

Each two-day course includes 14 hours of instruction plus 10 farm business management manuals students can take home to review.

"Courses are comprehensive, practical and in-depth," says Thom Shaw, manager of publications and special projects at the faculty of extension. "They are designed so participants can explore diversification options and learn the facts."

Trout farming students will learn about the costs and returns of the business, if they can obtain financing and markets. Risk management, handling and harvesting, winter management, production management, nutrition, pond management and water quality topics are covered.

Flavors and flowers looks at Alberta's new horticultural crops including dried flowers, herbs and spices. As with all the diversification courses, flavors and flowers provides an introduction to the business.

The course also answers a number of critical questions including labor needs, returns, risks, land needs, markets, processing and prospects. Crop choices, production, facilities, tools and equipment, plant nutrition and harvesting are among the course topics.

Registration for a two-day course is $150. Registering two people in the same course or registering for two courses is $260

For more information, a copy of the course brochure or to register, contact the faculty of extension in Edmonton at (403)492-3029

Contact Thom Shaw
(403)492-3885

Agri-News briefs

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Save $40 by registering early for Western Canadian Dairy Seminar

Registering for the 13th annual Western Canadian Dairy Seminar before February 15 will save you $40. Registration is $125 per person before February 15 and $165 after that date. There's a single day rate of $85. The student rate is $50. Registration rates haven't changed in the last four years. The Western Canadian Dairy Seminar is March 14 through 17 at Red Deer's Capri Centre. Seminar brochures are available at all Alberta Agriculture district offices. For registration and other information, contact the University of Alberta at (403)492-2601 or fax (403)492-9130.

Provincial Rural Crime Watch workshop February 3-4 in Vermilion

Vermilion, Mannville, Kitscoty, Minburn, Innisfree and Derwent Rural Crime Watch associations are hosting the 14th annual provincial workshop February 3 and 4 in Vermilion. Workshop topics include farm insurance, livestock theft, increasing association memberships, spotting drugs in your community and the Report-A-Poacher program. Workshop and convention activities on Saturday are at the Vermilion campus of Lakeland College. Friday evening registration is at the Alberta Fire Training School. The $30 registration fee includes three meals and Saturday evening entertainment. For more information contact Carrie Frederick at (403)853-2401 or Constable Karl Vidal at (403)853-4441 in Vermilion, or Constable Wayne Young in Mannville at (403)763-3798.

Opening doors to prosperity WBGA and OPAA

The 18th annual Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) convention is *opening doors to prosperity* February 1 through 3 at Kananaskis. Held in conjunction with the Oat Producers Association of Alberta, the convention includes a trade fair, speakers, panels and annual meetings. Early-bird registration before January 20 is $160 per person or $200 with a spouse for members. Non-members are $170 per person or $210 with a spouse. Registration at the convention is $190 for members and $200 for non-members. Respectively with a spouse, the prices are $240 and $250. GST isn't included in these prices. There's also an alternative ladies program. For more information contact the WBGA office in Calgary at (403)291-3620 or fax (403)291-9841.

LANTA offers growing your business workshops

The Landscape Alberta Nursery Trades Association (LANTA) is holding two *growing your business* workshops in February. Caliper tree production and plant propagation runs February 9 and 10 at the Hospitality Inn in Calgary. Plant diagnostics runs February 14 through 17 at the Royal West Inn in Edmonton. Topics covered at the caliper workshop include caliper tree production, pot-in-pot production, softwood and seedling propagation, nursery site selection and layout, perennial plant production, innovations and trends, and alternative production methods. This course is designed for nurserymen with field experience. The plant diagnostics workshop is suitable for garden centre staff and landscape maintenance contractors who have a minimum of two years experience. The workshop covers soils and fertilizers, nutrient deficiencies, pesticides, insects, diseases, weeds, and specifics in turf, fruit and ornamental problems. Some space is available in the workshops for non-LANTA members. For more information contact Dianne Hore or Nigel Bowles in Edmonton at (403)489-1991 or fax (403)444-2152.

AGRI-NEWS

January 23, 1995

CANADIANA

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Water management public meetings continue

Seven more water management public meetings will be held between January 26 and February 11.

These meetings are an opportunity for Albertans to comment on the concepts in a discussion draft of water management and conservation legislation and policies.

Copies of the discussion draft and policy guide package are available at local Alberta Environmental Protection offices throughout the province or by calling 1-800-661-5586 toll-free.

The first meeting is in Hinton at the Environmental Training Centre on January 26. The next three meetings are in the Peace Region, starting with High Level on January 31 at the Stardust Motor Inn. The Grande Prairie Inn is the location of the Grande Prairie meeting on February 1, with a Grimshaw meeting the next day at the Mile Zero Motor Inn.

There's a meeting in Fort McMurray on February 7 at the MacDonald Island Recreation Centre. The final two meetings are in Edmonton on February 10 and 11. The meeting location is the Convention Inn South.

Meetings, with the exception of the February 11 Edmonton meeting, run from 2 p.m. through 9 p.m. Introductory sessions are at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., followed by specific workshops related to the discussion-draft legislation. The second Edmonton meeting starts at 9 a.m. and runs through 4 p.m. with introductory sessions at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The open house runs all seven hours.

Over 1,000 Albertans attended the first eight meetings. They asked questions about the proposed water and conservation management legislation and shared their ideas and opinions with members of the *Water Management Review Committee*.

"I'm very encouraged with the interest shown in this review and the response Albertans have given," says Ty Lund, Alberta Environmental Protection's minister.

"Water is one of our most precious resources. The new legislation will ensure that, in the future, fair and wise use of water will continue," he adds.

"The comments received and the discussions we've had with Albertans will certainly help my committee when we sit down and prepare our report and recommendations for the Minister of Environmental Protection," says Glen Clegg, chair of the water management review committee and Dunvegan MLA.

"We've had a very good response at the public meetings already. I'm looking forward to the next six meetings and encourage all Albertans to involve themselves in the initiative," he adds.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Over 6,000 draft discussion packages about the proposed legislation have been distributed to Albertans.

Contact: *Ernie Hui* *Lee Anne Palutke*
(403)427-0047 *(403)427-8636*

PFRA's Alberta rural water development program revamped

Enhancements to rural water projects will be emphasized more than project construction in a revamped Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) *Rural Water Development Program* in Alberta.

The federal government program will now fund projects that improve water quality or extend the life of water development projects. Although there will be lower payment rates for well and dugout construction, funds will be provided for enhancements such as well screens and remote livestock watering from dugouts.

"The changes are intended to better target limited program funds and are a result of consultations with local municipal councils over the past year," says Dave Kiely, PFRA water development/conservation specialist.

While the new rural water program is more flexible and addresses local conditions, it also promotes input from rural municipalities about spending priorities.

Financial assistance is available to qualified applicants according to local priorities in the municipality where the project is based. Program eligibility will expand to include qualified rural residents, communities and rural Alberta municipalities.

April 1, 1995 is the application deadline for projects in 1995-96. To be eligible, applicants must receive project approval from the PFRA before they begin construction. Technical assistance for project planning is available year-round.

The revamped *Rural Water Development Program* is designed to lessen the impact of drought, and increase rural economic growth and living standards on the Prairies. Technical and moderate financial assistance are available for water development projects such as wells, dams, dugouts and springs.

Assistance is also available for regional projects such as ground water exploration and mapping, community water conservation and supply, regional water supply pipelines, tankloader facilities and water quality enhancement.

For more information contact the nearest PFRA district office, Dave Kiely in Edmonton at (403)495-6365 or Kelt Davies in Calgary at (403)292-5723.

Contact: *Dave Kiely*
(403)495-6365

Banner production year for Alberta honey producers

Honey producers in Alberta have finished what appears to have been a banner year says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Per hive production is reported to average 180 pounds or better. Alberta producers are very competitive globally when hives produce at this level," says Matthew Machielse of the market analysis and statistics branch.

Total production costs, including labor, are estimated at about 64 cents per pound or $115.68 per hive. Current honey market prices are quoted in a 62 to 64 cents per pound range to wholesalers. As well, producers can expect another five to six cents per pound for byproducts such as wax and pollen.

"On average, that means 1994 should prove to be a profitably year for most producers," says Machielse.

Domestic honey prices are supported by a weak Canadian dollar. The recent devaluation of the Mexican peso makes Mexico more competitive in major U.S. and European honey markets. "Fortunately for our growers, the pesos' drop came after most grower sales were complete," he notes.

World stock levels also should help maintain stable prices he adds. Declining world production has been met with both a drop in consumption and world trade resulting in a small decline in world ending stocks.

Recent profitability in Canada's honey industry will likely speed the end of the tripartite honey program this year. Machielse says producers should look at their individual operation to determine if the program's elimination will put them at financial risk on future price slides.

"Cost estimates by our department's production economics branch show that most producers could still pay their cash costs if prices were to decline by up to 30 per cent. However, over the longer term substantial prices declines from current levels would hurt the industry," he says.

Contact: *Matthew Machielse*
(403)427-5387

International expert keynote speaker at conservation workshop

High-yield agriculture's place in sustainable agriculture is the subject tackled by the *1995 Conservation Workshop's* keynote speaker.

Opportunities and challenges in sustainable agriculture is the overall theme for the annual workshop February 23 through 25 in Red Deer.

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Dennis Avery will open the workshop with his keynote presentation "He is internationally known for his expertise in the dynamic changes taking place in the world's ability to feed itself and still protect the environment," notes Peter Gamache, workshop co-ordinator.

Avery, a senior agricultural analyst for the U.S. State department for nearly a decade, currently directs the Center for Global Food Issues at the Hudson Institute in Indianapolis.

"His presentation will give participants a global perspective," says Gamache. "As well, his views are different than what you might read in the popular press."

For example, Avery believes a growing world food demand can be met through yield increases made possible by biotechnology and conservation farming systems that include pesticide use. And, at the same time he says the system will conserve both soil and wildlife habitat.

"Avery says high-yield farming is already saving 10 million square miles of wildlife habitat because it has tripled the productivity of existing agricultural lands," adds Gamache.

Other day one plenary topics include precision farming, the biotechnology revolution and how Albertans view the agriculture industry. Avery will be a member of a public awareness panel discussion following the latter session.

Day one also features a research poster session and *Taste of Alberta* buffet in the evening.

Day two activities include the 17th annual Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) meeting and the Alberta Forage Council meeting. Plenary sessions are watershed assessment, biodiversity on the farm, and information acquisition.

The same concurrent sessions run four times the first two days. Subjects covered include integrated weed control, direct seeding, fertilizer efficiency, long term forage management, pulse crops in crop rotations, quality soil and farm diversification

Day three is devoted to direct seeding. This direct seeding Saturday includes a manufacturers forum as well as educational seminars. (See separate story this issue.)

The 1995 workshop is being held in conjunction with *Farm Progress Days* at Western Park. Trade show admission is included in registration. One, two and three-day registration packages are available.

The provincial workshop is presented by ACTS and Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch. For more information, contact Gamache in Edmonton at (403)422-4385, or ACTS executive manager Russ Evans at Box 1, Site 9, R.R. 5, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2G6 or (403)936-5306.

Contact: *Peter Gamache*
(403)422-4385

Direct seeding Saturday – workshop finale

Alberta's annual provincial conservation workshop will wrap up with a day devoted to direct seeding.

Saturday, February 25 will be *direct seeding Saturday*. It's the final day of the 1995 Conservation Workshop and 17th annual Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) meeting in Red Deer between February 23 and 25. For the first time the event will run in conjunction with the Westerner's *Farm Progress Days* trade show.

"Over 100 exhibitors are confirmed," says workshop co-ordinator Peter Gamache.

Some of the exhibitors will be featured in a manufacturers' forum on Saturday afternoon. In four 30-minute sessions industry representatives will share what's new and how their products fit into conservation farming systems.

"Throughout Saturday there'll also be a number of educational sessions," adds Gamache.

The day starts with a three-part session on minimum tillage with high residue conditions. Three farmers will describe their cropping systems.

Other topics covered are weed population shifts in direct seeding, principles for applying lower herbicide rates and the changing machinery requirements in direct seeding systems.

"For $50 you can register just for direct seeding Saturday," notes Gamache. "Daily registration, as with all registration rates, include a pass to the trade show and lunch."

One, two and three-day registration packages are available. The full workshop registration is $150 per person or $190 per couple. One and two day rates depend on the days chosen. Two-day rates range from $95 to $105. Daily rates are $50, $60 and $70.

"Our Saturday agenda winds up around 3 p.m., however the trade show is open for another couple of hours until 5 p.m. so participants will have time for a good look through," says Gamache.

The provincial workshop is presented by ACTS and Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch. For more information, contact Gamache in Edmonton at (403)422-4385, or ACTS executive manager Russ Evans at Box 1, Site 9, R.R. 5, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2G6 or (403)936-5306.

Contact: *Peter Gamache*
(403)422-4385

Management workshop for would-be deer farmers

A complete farm management overview of the deer industry is offered in a two-day workshop, February 22 and 23 in Smoky Lake.

"The workshop is designed for brand new producers and people who are considering this type of diversification," says Bruce Friedel, Alberta Agriculture game farm specialist.

Business plans are the focus of the workshop he adds. "By the end of the two days you'll be armed with enough information to make a business decision based on facts."

Speakers include experienced producers, Alberta Agriculture specialists and related agribusiness representatives. "This also gives participants a chance to see who's who in the industry," says Friedel.

The first morning starts with an introduction to North American deer farming, enabling legislation in Alberta, and inspection and regulatory control. Other day one topics include pathology reports, herd health testing and management calendars.

Jerry Haigh, a pioneer in the deer industry and an instructor at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, speaks on several of these day one topics including health management, nutrition and productivity of farmed deer.

Day two topics include facility design, fencing principles, obtaining and marketing breed stock, the orphan animal policy, venison markets, velvet market potential, trophy bucks and dealing with creditors. As well, there's a hard core, number crunching session in a deer enterprise analysis covering profitability, leverage and risk.

Workshop enrolment is limited to 20 farms. The cost is $200, plus GST. To register, call Friedel in Edmonton at (403)427-5083. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Bruce Friedel
(403)427-5083

Build your success with the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar

Dairy producers can build knowledge along the road to their success at the 13th annual Western Canadian Dairy Seminar in Red Deer March 14 through 17.

Building success through knowledge is the theme of the 1995 seminar, notes Brian Cameron, chair of the seminar advisory committee. Cameron is an Alberta Agriculture dairy management specialist.

"More than 20 expert speakers will cover a broad range of topics in plenary and concurrent sessions," he says. "They'll share up-to-date information on technology, trade and research."

Plenary sessions are in three general areas – reproduction, a vision for the industry's future, and nutrition and management. Concurrent session topics include creating a productive environment, health, forages, marketing and promotion. As well, there's a feature evening panel session spotlighting the science and practice of BST use.

Three of the featured speakers hail from the U.S. "All three will be familiar to producers in Western Canada," adds Cameron.

Gordon Jones, a veterinarian from the dairy state of Wisconsin, will discuss expanding smaller herds and the art of listening to your cows.

Mike Hutjens is from the University of Illinois and Jack Britt from North Carolina State University. Britt makes two presentations on March 15. The topics are achieving a sound reproductive herd management program and improving heat detection in tie-stall and free-stall environments.Identifying nutrition constraints that limit profit and a cost-benefit analysis of changing to a TMR feeding system are Hutjens' topics.

"Conference participants will have a good opportunity to talk with both Dr. Hutjens and Dr. Jones as they will be at the whole conference," adds Cameron.

Contact: Brian Cameron
(403)427-8906

Correction: Low sulphur diesel and diesel engines

An article in the January 9, 1995 Agri-News issue, "Low sulphur diesel and your diesel engine" inadvertently missed a "not" and may have left the wrong impression about using low sulphur diesel fuel with engines that have or don't have a catalytic convertor. We apologize for any inconvenience this error may have caused. The following contains the corrected paragraph in an abridged version of the original story.
The Editor

Low sulphur diesel and your diesel engine

The advent of low sulphur diesel fuel has some farmers wondering whether this fuel will damage their engines says Alberta Agriculture's energy engineer.

"The other half of the question is whether they can use regular sulphur diesel fuel in newer diesel engines designed to burn cleaner and use low sulphur fuel," says John Chang.

If the question is will a 1995 model diesel engine be damaged by using regular sulphur diesel, the answer is "it depends". "If your vehicle is not equipped with a catalytic converter or trap – all heavy duty and some medium duty truck engines – manufacturers

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say damage shouldn't occur However, the engine will exceed the particulate emission limit it was designed to meet," explains Chang

On the other hand, if the 1995 diesel vehicle is equipped with a catalytic converter or trap – some medium duty truck engines and all light duty engines – manufacturers caution prolonged use of regular sulphur diesel could cause serious and permanent damage to the exhaust after-treatment device

"Using regular sulphur diesel might also affect your warranty coverage," warns Chang. "To be sure, consult with your vehicle manufacturer."

Chang adds fuel additives are generally not needed or recommended.

Farmers who have bought 1995 model diesel vehicles should read their owner's manual or talk to their vehicle manufacturer to determine what type of diesel fuel is recommended for their vehicle, recommends Chang.

"Then, talk to your fuel supplier to make sure you are getting the right type of fuel. All suppliers have fuel quality specialists who can answer your questions," he says.

Contact John Chang
(403)427-2181

Agri-News briefs

Slaughter hog market and its surprises

They've been many and bad, but one of the latest surprises in the hog market was actually good news for Alberta producers. "Alberta hog prices climbed 30 cents per kg in the space of only one month, and during a month when prices typically decline," says Ron Gietz, an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. The rally began in early December when U.S. packers attempted to keep large supplies of slaughter hogs around them to maintain large kill volumes. "Supplies eventually didn't meet packer demand resulting in an upward pull on prices," says Gietz. As well, early winter storms in the U.S. had a positive effect on prices. For more information contact Gietz at the market analysis and statistics branch in Edmonton at (403)427-5376. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Egg producers annual meeting February 28

The 26th annual meeting of the Alberta Egg Producers Board is scheduled for February 28. The meeting is at the Capri Centre in Red Deer. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the meeting to start at 9:30 a.m. For more information contact the board office in Calgary at (403)250-1197.

Slaughter cattle markets end, begin year on positive note

Slaughter cattle markets ended 1994 and began 1995 on an optimistic notes says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. U.S. fed cattle prices topped $70 and Alberta fed cattle prices reached the $90/cwt. mark by mid-December says Ron Gietz. By the first week of January, some U.S. fed cattle prices had stretched up to the $73 mark. "With those higher prices, most North American feedlots have returned to profitability," says Gietz. "And that's a welcome change from the large losses the feedlot industry experienced through much of 1994." For more information contact Gietz at the market analysis and statistics branch in Edmonton at (403)427-5376. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

One-day trade show and workshop on alternative livestock options

Lakeland College and Alberta Agriculture are offering a one-day trade show and workshop on alternative livestock options. The trade show and workshop is February 11 at the college's Vermilion campus. Activities start a 11 a.m. and run through 8 p.m. Registration before February 3 is $15 per person or $23 per couple, plus GST. For more information call Lakeland College at 1-800-661-6490.

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Border City seed show February 14 and 15

The Lloydminster Exhibition Association will host the *Border City Seed Show* February 14 and 15. Entry deadline for exhibitors is January 31. There are a total of 13 classes. An auction of champions divides the profits equally between the exhibitor and seed grain show committee. The show also features a "you be the judge" contest with two $600 credit vouchers from Proven Seed as the prizes. For the second consecutive year the seed show will be held in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association annual workshop, meeting and trade show. The 1995 theme is direct seeding. For more information contact the Lloydminster Exhibition Association at (306)825-5571 or fax (306)825-7017.

Seed show entry deadlines approach

March is the traditional time for a number of Alberta seed shows, and their entry deadlines are all approaching. The North American Seed Fair in Lethbridge is March 1 through 4. Its silage entry deadline is February 10 and the rest of class entries must be in by February 17. For more information, sample bags and tags, contact the Lethbridge exhibition office at (403)328-4491 or fax (403)320-8139. Seed entries for the 47th Calgary Seed Fair and Hay Show close on February 15. The show runs March 4 through 7. For more information call (403)934-3355. Entries close for the Edmonton Northlands Pedigree Seed Show on March 1. The 12th annual show is March 22 through 25 at the Northlands AgriCom. For more information call (403)471-7260 or fax (403)471-8176. March 7 is the entry deadline for the Peace Country Classic Seed Show. That show runs March 9 through 11 in Grande Prairie. For more information call the Grande Prairie Regional Agricultural Society at (403)532-3279.

5th Alberta Farm Women's Network conference Jan.27-28

The fifth biennial Alberta Farm Women's Network conference is in Edmonton January 27 and 28. Common ground, between rural and urban women and food and farming, is the conference theme. The network's annual meeting is the evening of January 26 and is open to the public. Anyone interested in contributing to or becoming involved with the network is encouraged to attend. The conference concludes with a luncheon and the announcement of the *Farm Woman of the Year*. For more information contact Janet Walter at (403)347-0660, or for conference registration call Christine at (403)934-3196.

Ostrich workshop February 3-4

A two-day ostrich workshop runs February 3 and 4 in Camrose. Part of series on agricultural diversification, the course is offered by the University of Alberta faculty of extension and the Camrose Regional Exhibition. The practical management course covers risk management, bird biology and reproduction, marketing and financial management, hatchery construction, incubation biology, nutrition, handling facilities, preventative medicine, import and export, production management and transportation. Registration is $150 per workshop or $260 for two registrants in any single course. For more information call the faculty of extension at (403)492-3029.

WCWGA elect new president

Larry Maguire is the new president of the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association. Maguire of Elgin, Manitoba succeeds Hubert Esquirol who retired. Maguire as elected at the association's 25th anniversary convention. "My goals as president are to work toward finalizing the method of payment changes and the corresponding transportation efficiencies," he says. Also elected to the association's board of directors were Bill Blake of Peace River, Alberta and Kevin Archibald of Killarney, Manitoba. Other Alberta members on the board are Pat Durnin of Kathyrn, Jack Gorr of Three Hills, Jean Van Roessel from Bow Island and Donna Graham of Vulcan. The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is Western Canada's largest non-profit, voluntary farm organization, dedicated to the development of a competitive, profitable and market-driven agriculture industry. For more information contact Maguire at (204)769-2462 or the Alberta office at (403)534-2232.

Ukraine, opportunities for Canadian agriculture February 1-3

Opportunities for Canadian agriculture and agri-industry in Ukraine are the subject of a three-day workshop in Yorkton, Saskatchewan on February 1 through 3. Conference topics include business opportunities in Ukraine, laws involved in doing business, Ukrainian government priorities and agricultural policy, working with the Ukrainian Embassy in Canada, export finance and letters of credit, and freight forwarders. For more information call Efrem Enterprises in Yorkton at (306)783-5888.

AGRI-NEWS

January 30, 1995

CANADIANA

JAN 22 1997

Helping rural entrepreneurs into the agrifood business

Whether you're at the idea stage, just getting started or already in business, Alberta Agriculture agrifood development consultants can help.

The three consultant positions are new ones, created in the department's move to specialization, and are designed to stimulate and promote new agrifood business development. The consultants are based in Lethbridge (south), Grande Prairie (northwest and Peace) and Red Deer (central and eastern).

Access is one of the services the consultants offer; access to both government services and programs, and current information and technology. "Regardless of where you enter the government network, we aim to direct you to the services and programs that match your needs whether or not they're in our department or level of government," says Karen Hoover, the southern region consultant.

"Proposals are confidential," stresses Karen Goad who is based in Grande Prairie. "Your permission is required to share details we need to access information to build your plan." That information could include food trends, food brokers, market information and industry profiles.

"We can assist you in developing business and marketing plans. We'll also notify you about current training and education opportunities," notes Joyce Lencucha.

For more information about how an agrifood development consult can help you, contact Goad in Grande Prairie at (403)538-5285, Hoover in Lethbridge at (403)381-5130 or Lencucha in Red Deer at (403)340-5358. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Karen Goad
(403)538-5285
Joyce Lencucha
(403)340-5358

Karen Hoover
(403)381-5130

Paszkowski endorses farm leaders' directions for WGTA reform

Following a meeting with his prairie counterparts, Alberta's agriculture minister says he's pleased with the consensus reached to reform the Western Grain Transportation Act (WGTA).

The direction for reform was developed by prairie farm leaders. Their statement on WGTA reform came out of a January 9, 1995 meeting of 13 farm organizations in Regina.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
formerly Print Media

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Farm leaders stressed the new program must comply with Canada's international trade obligations, should be neutral to producers' production and marketing decisions, should be separate from safety nets but with a common approach across the West, should not direct benefits to other regions in Canada, and may require transitional adjustment programs to deal with special situations.

In addition, the farm leaders emphasized the issue of pooling seaway costs needs to be addressed at the same time. They agreed that a freight rate structure under the WGTA must be subject to a maximum rate, and there must be cost reductions to farmers.

They also set an August 1, 1995 target implementation date for changes to the WGTA.

"This is a historic milestone in Western Canada's resolution of this important issue," says Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's minister. "I believe this unprecedented level of agreement provides the federal government with clear direction on how prairie farmers would like these issues resolved."

In their meeting, the Prairie ministers stressed any federal proposal must recognize the Crow Benefit is an integral part of the federal government's commitment to prairie agriculture. They also noted reform of Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) pooling must occur simultaneously with changes to the WGTA.

"We are now asking for an immediate meeting with the federal agriculture and agri-food minister, Ralph Goodale, to obtain more information about federal intentions and to assist him in resolving any remaining issues. It is imperative this meeting occur prior to budgetary decisions being determined for the upcoming federal budget," says Paszkowski.

Farm organizations represented in the consensus document are the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, Manitoba Pool Elevators, Alberta Pool, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association, the Western Barley Growers Association, Keystone Agriculture Producers, United Grain Growers, Unifarm, the Canadian Dehydrators Association and the Flax Growers of Western Canada.

Contact:	*Dwight Dibben*	*Doug Radke*
	Executive assistant to the minister	*Deputy minister*
	(403)427-2137	*(403)427-2145*

AARI supports biotech awareness project

The Alberta Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) has added its support to a Western Canadian biotechnology education awareness project.

"Biotechnology is on the leading edge of agricultural research," says Ralph Christian, AARI's executive director. "Travelling the leading edge is AARI's mandate, which is one reason the board chose to support the project." As well, this project will provide a balanced presentation of the impact agrifood research has in general and biotechnology in particular," he adds.

The agrifood biotechnology awareness project is the first undertaking of the Western Canadian Agricultural Education Council. The project includes a video for secondary school students plus other resources including a guide to the complete package.

Christian, who is one the project's technical advisors, says its central concept is to make people more comfortable with new technology by explaining its uses, benefits and safety.

"The AARI board also sees a benefit from students being exposed to science and research," he adds. "Today's students are tomorrow's researchers."

AARI's contribution came at a great time says Betty Gabert, the project's co-ordinator. Gabert is an Alberta Agriculture agricultural awareness specialist and a founder of the Western Canadian Agricultural Education Council.

"We've nearly hit our fund raising target. We hope to exceed the target so we can expand the multi-media elements of the project. For example, adding CD-Rom to the package. It's estimated all high schools will have and use this technology within three years. Every contribution we get makes a difference to the scope of what we can achieve," says Gabert.

The project's biggest dollar contributor is the National Institute of Biotechnology that committed $46,000 to the $80,000 project. Other supporters include Alberta Pool, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen and Ag-West Biotech, a Saskatoon biotechnology company.

For more information about the council and the biotechnology project, contact Gabert in Edmonton at (403)427-2171. For more information about AARI, call (403)427-1956. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact:	*Dr. Ralph Christian*	*Betty Gabert*
	(403)422-1072	*(403)427-2171*

Long wait worthwhile for Brownfield 4-Her

Back in November 1993 Ken Adair earned a trip to "next year's" *Denver Western 4-H Round-up Judging Team Competition*. The next year turned out to be January 1995, but the delay didn't work against the Brownfield 4-Her.

Adair placed sixth overall in the competition against 4-H members from 25 U.S. states and his Alberta teammates. Along the way he was second overall in placings, third in the beef class and eighth in hogs.

"Its an exciting event for our 4-H members to take part in," says Henry Wiegman, Alberta Agriculture provincial 4-H agriculture

Cont'd on page 3

specialist, who also coached the Alberta 4-H judging team in Denver.

Maureen Mappin of Byemoor and Charles Schoening of Pincher Creek were the other team members. They were joined by leader chaperon Dwayne Grover of Stettler.

"Our team finished in the middle third, a very good showing considering that many of the other teams had been together for a number of years with the same coach and weekly training sessions," says Wiegman.

"The round-up includes more than 700 4-Hers taking part in a number of activities, not just livestock judging. Plus the events are at the Denver National Western Stock Show, a major international show," he adds.

"This is an exciting opportunity for members as they are exposed to the 4-H program in another country, meet 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) members from all over the western U.S. and have an opportunity to see top livestock and other attractions at the Denver show," says Wiegman.

UNIBLOK Canada sponsored the Alberta 4-Hers' trip to Denver. "UNIBLOK is a long-time supporter of the Alberta 4-H judging program," he notes.

Alberta 4-Hers earn the right to attend out-of-province judging competitions through the provincial multi-species judging contest. They advance to the provincial event from regional competitions. In 1994 the provincial competition was held in Olds in July.

Contact: *Henry Wiegman*
(403)422-4444

Limited space available for intensive grain marketing courses

Two eight-day intensive grain marketing courses will run in Lacombe and Airdrie through February and March.

The Lacombe course starts later this week, February 1 and 2, and runs Wednesday and Thursday every other week through to March 15 and 16. The Airdrie course starts next week, February 7 and 8. It's Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the same format through March 21 and 22.

"The fee is more than reasonable and space is limited to 20 participants," says Doug Walkey, Alberta Agriculture district market specialist in Lacombe.

Registration is $275 per person or couple. "That's an advantage for the farm management team who can take the course together," says Walkey.

"Course participants receive a lot of materials they can continue to use including Alberta Agriculture's *Agricultural Marketing Manual* and a subscription to the *Monthly Commentary and Outlook*," he adds.

Also included in the advanced grain marketing course are GrainSim materials, the eight days of instruction with workshops and speakers, plus telephone support as required.

"The course starts with a marketing manager's review, or where participants are at," notes Walkey.

Topics on the course agenda include how cost of production is related to the market and outlook, selecting crops to grow, a how to for practical on-farm market outlooks and a real world outlook from the present into the next year.

Participants also learn about using the futures market to control price risk, using the options market to grasp opportunity, selling strategies and merchandising farm produce, cash contracts and pricing, and dealing with the grain trade industry.

"There's also an opportunity to practice grain marketing skills with the market simulation GrainSim," he says.

Course times are 9:30 a.m. through noon and from 1 p.m. through 3:30 p.m. "By the quirk of the calendar, the course dates are easy to remember, they are the same dates in both February and March," notes Walkey.

The Lacombe course runs February 1, 2, 15, 16 and March 1, 2, 15 and 16. The Airdrie course is February 7, 8, 21, 22 and March 7, 8, 21 and 22.

For more information or to register, call Walkey in Lacombe at (403)782-3301 or Doug Cornell in Airdrie at (403)948-8503. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact:	*Doug Walkey*	*Doug Cornell*
	(403)782-3301	*(403)948-8503*

Horticulture fertilizer workshop February 20

Both beginners and advanced horticultural crop growers may be interested in a one-day fertilizer workshop February 20.

"After attending the workshop, participants should be able to understand the basic principles of fertilizer management and how to make practical crop management decisions," says Mohyuddin Mirza, Alberta Agriculture greenhouse extension specialist.

Organized by the department's horticulture unit and co-sponsored by the Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association, the workshop will be held at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre (17507 Fort Road) in Edmonton. The workshop starts at 10 a.m. and runs through 4:30 p.m.

Workshop subjects include nutrients required for plant growth, the role of major and minor nutrients, factors that affect nutrient uptake, how to diagnose nutrient deficiency symptoms, injector systems and developing a fertilizer program. As well, the workshop will cover water quality and water management.

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"Workshop space is limited, so pre-registration is required," he adds. Registration is $32.10.

To register, mail a cheque made payable to the Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association along with your name and address to: Dr. M. Mirza, Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, R.R. 6, Edmonton, AB, T5B 4K3.

For more information contact Mirza at (403)422-1789 or fax (403)422-6096. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Dr. Mohyuddin Mirza
(403)422-1789

Research on tap at provincial conservation workshop

There's a wealth of research updates available at the 1995 Conservation Workshop February 23 through 25 in Red Deer.

"Participants can taken in at least 29 different research posters detailing current work related to conservation tillage, equipment, water quality, computer modeling and sustainable cropping systems," says Peter Gamache workshop co-ordinator.

The research posters will be set up in the *Farm Progress Days* trade show area. The provincial conservation workshop and 17th annual Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) meeting are being held in conjunction with the trade show.

"Thursday evening, February 28, starting at 6:30 p.m. workshop participants can talk to researchers about their particular project," adds Gamache. Posters will be also available for viewing during the trade show.

Among the tillage-related project subjects are conservation tillage in dark brown and clay soils; effect on infiltration and soil porosity; no-till seeding into sod; earthworm populations; irrigated crops; and, rotation and soil moisture.

Using double shoot openers for applying anhydrous ammonia fertilizer and powered-rod packing systems are two equipment related research projects.

Legumes in sustainable cropping, development of native grasses, restoring productivity of eroded fields with commercial fertilizers, field shelterbelt evaluation, southern chinooks and wind erosion, and a comparison of direct and indirect effects of grasshopper-control insecticides on songbird breeding success are a sample of other research projects.

"These projects represent the work of a number of government and other individual and joint research efforts," notes Gamache.

This includes Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch and soil and crop management branch; Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada researchers from Lacombe, Lethbridge and Beaverlodge as well as Swift Current and Scott, Saskatchewan; Alberta Environmental Protection; the Canadian Wildlife Service; and, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

One of the province's applied research groups is also a poster presenter. The Battle River Research Group is involved in a long-term comparison of tillage practices.

"Water quality is a major issue and a number of water-related research projects will be represented," says Gamache. For example, the Grimshaw aquifer management advisory committee will present its local aquifer management strategy.

Opportunities and challenges in sustainable agriculture is the overall theme for the annual workshop. Day one and two feature plenary and concurrent sessions. Day three is *Direct Seeding Saturday*.

One, two and three-day registration packages are available. The full workshop registration is $150 per person or $190 per couple. One and two day rates depend on the days chosen. Two-day rates range from $95 to $105. Daily rates are $50, $60 and $70.

The provincial workshop is presented by ACTS and Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch. For more information, contact Gamache in Edmonton at (403)422-4385, or ACTS executive manager Russ Evans at Box 1, Site 9, R.R. 5, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2G6 or (403)936-5306.

Contact: Peter Gamache
(403)422-4385

Dairy seminar rates stay the same

Registration rates for the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar remain the same for the fourth consecutive year.

"We're very pleased to be able to keep registration at the same rates. It's a piece of good news when many other costs seem to rise," says Brian Cameron, chair of the seminar's advisory committee.

Pre-registration, before February 15, is $125 per person. After February 15, registration is $165 per person. There's a single day rate of $85 per person. Students can attend the seminar for only $50.

The 13th annual seminar is March 14 through 17 at the Capri Centre in Red Deer. A pre-seminar tour and evening registration and reception run on March 14. Seminar sessions begin on the morning of March 15 and run through to noon on March 17.

Building success through the knowledge is the seminar theme. Plenary sessions are in three general areas – reproduction, a vision for the industry's future, and nutrition and management. Concurrent session topics include creating a productive environment, health, forages, marketing and promotion. As well, there's a feature evening panel session spotlighting the science and practice of BST use.

Seminar brochures are available from all Alberta Agriculture district offices. For registration and other information, contact the University of Alberta at (403)492-2601 or fax (403)492-9130.

Contact: Brian Cameron (403)427-8906

Agri-News briefs

Commercial berry production school Feb.2-3

Anyone interested in commercial berry growing can learn more about this expanding industry at the ninth annual *Commercial Berry Production School* February 2 and 3 in Red Deer. The school opens with general sessions on the Alberta berry industry, opportunities for growth, signs, customer expectations, site selection and required equipment. Raspberry production follows in the afternoon. Strawberries and saskatoons are the focus of day two. Alberta Market Gardeners Association members get a registration price break. At the door, one-day registration is $25 for members and $35 for non-members. Two-day registration is $45 per person for members and $55 for non-members. The *Commercial Berry Production School* will be held at the North Hill Inn in Red Deer. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. For more information about the school, registration or berry production, contact Lloyd Hausher in Brooks at (403)362-3391. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Still questions and concerns on draft water management act?

A *Water Management Review Committee* has been receiving input about proposed water legislation since it began holding public meetings in southern Alberta in late 1994. Even though the committee has almost concluded its scheduled meetings, Alberta Environmental Protection is prepared to attend additional information meetings if requested by interest groups. Water is important to rural Alberta and the draft legislation is significant and complex. If you have questions or concerns, contact Alberta Environmental Protection at their toll-free number, 1-800-661-5586. For a copy of the discussion draft, call the same number. Written submissions can be made before February 28, 1995 to the Water Management Policy and Legislation Review, Alberta Environmental Protection, 3rd Floor Oxbridge Place, 9820-106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2J6. You can also contact the Farmer's Advocate's office by dialing 310-000 toll-free and asking the operator for 427-2433.

Water management public meetings continue

Public meetings on a draft Water Management and Conservation Act continue through February 11. These meetings are an opportunity for Albertans to comment on the concepts in a discussion draft of water management and conservation legislation and policies. The scheduled meetings are: Tuesday January 31, High Level, Star Dust Motor Inn; Wednesday, February 1 Grande Prairie, Grande Prairie Inn; Thursday February 2, Grimshaw, Mile Zero Motor Inn; Tuesday February 7, Fort McMurray, MacDonald Island Recreation Centre; Friday and Saturday, February 10 and 11, Edmonton, Convention Inn South. Meetings during the week run from 2 p.m. through 9 p.m. Saturday sessions run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Copies of the discussion draft and policy guide package are available at local Alberta Environmental Protection offices throughout the province or by calling 1-800-661-5586 toll-free.

Drumheller farmer new Unifarm president

Ron Leonhardt, a Drumheller area grain farmer, is the new president of Unifarm. He succeeds Roy Jensen who didn't seek re-election after serving a two-year term. Leonhardt has been on the Unifarm board since the early 1980s and is also a member of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture executive. Alan Holt of Bashaw is now first vice-president and Barry Marshall of Edgerton is second vice-president. For more information contact the Unifarm office in Edmonton at (403)451-5912.

Leading edge field pea seminar Feb.28

A one-day, leading edge field pea seminar will be held in Westlock on February 28. The seminar also includes a trade show. Seminar topics include weed and disease control, harvesting update, land rolling pea fields, pea products for hogs, new pea varieties and peas in conservation tillage. Pre-registration is required by February 24. To register, call the Barrhead (674-8213), Westlock (349-4465) or Morinville (939-4351) Alberta Agriculture district office.

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Paszkowski leads investment search and trade mission

Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's minister, is currently on the road in the U.S. and Mexico as part of a food processing investment search and trade mission. Last week, from January 24 through 27, Paszkowski met with nine major multi-national corporations in Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska and Ohio to encourage the companies to expand their current investment in Alberta and or start new ventures. "U.S. senior executives need to be informed of the positive business environment in the province, supported by the Alberta government's policy initiatives," Paszkowski said before leaving for the U.S. He also says there's opportunity for Alberta's food and agricultural processing industry to expand by 300 to 400 per cent. Paszkowski will go on to Mexico. One goal of the trade mission is to solidify the Alberta Swine Breeders Association presence and market share in Mexico. He'll also meet with agricultural secretaries from Jalisco, Veracruz and Durango. The mission schedule also includes meetings in Mexico City. For more information contact the minister's office in Edmonton at (403)427-2137.

Using options and futures two-day workshops

Alberta producers can learn more about futures markets and options at a two-day workshop coming to a number of communities. *Using options and futures on your farm* participants will learn how to better understand markets, manage price risk and supplement cash marketing. Location and dates are Nisku on February 8 and 9, Grande Prairie February 13 and 14, and Camrose on February 21 and 22. Workshops are also planned for Mayerthorpe, Wainwright and Picture Butte. The workshops are offered by KenAgra Management Services with partial funding for the project from the Canada/Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI). For more information contact Brenda Brindle or Herb Lock in Edmonton at (403)468-4442.

February horticulture courses at the Devonian Botanic Garden

Commercial horticulture courses are on the agenda in February at the University of Alberta Devonian Botanic Garden. Topics include herbs and species on February 4, apple orchards on February 11 and woody ornamentals for tree farms and shelterbelts on February 18. Course fees vary. Other horticultural courses include flower breeding (starting February 6), acreage landscape design (starting February 7), starting perennial seeds (February 8) and principles of tissue culture (February 12). For more information, a free brochure or to register for a course, call the education line at (403)987-2064.

Grain World'95 outlook February 5-7

The Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) outlook conference, *Grain World'95*, runs February 5 through 7 in Winnipeg. Speakers are from North America and Europe. They'll discuss the many factors affecting the short and longer-term outlook for grains, oilseeds, special crops and red meats. For more information contact Brian White at the CWB in Winnipeg at (204)983-4265.

Coming agricultural events notice

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in **the spring, summer or fall of 1995**? Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the **name, city or town, and phone number** of a **contact person** for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization). **Please include your telephone number**:

Please return this form by* February 23, 1995 *to:

Agri-News Editor
Communications Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
FAX (403)427-2861

("Coming agricultural events" is published four times a year in **Agri-News**.
The next list will be **March 6, 1995**)

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AGRI-NEWS
February 6, 1995

CANADIANA

FEB 21 1995

Science resource to make sense of agricultural equation

The only agricultural input not in decreasing supply is technology, and as a result research and technology development are the industry's future.

This concept, the sensitive relationship between six inputs and yield and the critical role of applied science in the future of a sustainable food supply, will be explained in a new resource proposed by Betty Gabert of Alberta Agriculture's Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) program and DowElanco.

"The eventual product will be for both educators and industry representatives across Western Canada," says Gabert, Alberta Agriculture agricultural awareness specialist and co-ordinator of Alberta's AITC program. "Its concept grew out of a biotechnology resource development project," she notes. "Biotechnology is one of the areas of applied science that will provide solutions to maintain and increase yield even though resources such as soil and water are limited.

"However, biotechnology isn't the only technology that will be used or needed to sustain and improve food production," she adds.

As well, the project supports a recent agreement by the four western provinces to standardize the science curriculum and include sustainable development with a section on agriculture and food production.

"We've been able to go ahead with the project because of sponsorship from DowElanco Canada," she notes.

Education and communication are the reasons DowElanco got involved says Doreen Agostino, manager of government and industry relations. "Our industry needs to do a better job communicating the contribution it makes to a high quality, safe and abundant food supply," she says. Both the public and educators appear to be poorly informed she adds. [See separate story this issue.]

Currently Gabert and co-author Patricia Porter are working on the resource document. Gabert says it will be divided into modules dealing with the inputs of soil, water, money, labor, technology and non-renewable/manufactured resources such as fuel.

"The resource will have two formats," she notes. "One as a presentation package for the school system and another, probably bound as a coffee-table type volume, for industry

For more information on the applied technology project or AITC contact Gabert in Edmonton at (403)427-2171.

Contact: Betty Gabert (403)427-2171

Doreen Agostino (905)830-5836

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

DowElanco supports AITC science project

Education and communication about agricultural issues are two reasons DowElanco is supporting a new Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) project linking agriculture and research.

"Our industry needs to do a better job communicating the contribution it makes to a high quality, safe and abundant food supply," says Doreen Agostino, DowElanco Canada's manager of government and industry relations. "Not only is the public poorly informed about agricultural issues, educators appear to be less informed."

Agostino says her company is looking for ways to effectively communicate the industry's message about technology's contribution to a safe, reliable food supply. "We believe there's a lot of merit in supporting the Western Canadian AITC project," she says. "The science model being developed by Alberta Ag in the Classroom demonstrates through technology how we can continue to safely feed a growing population, while protecting the environment for future generations."

The agricultural chemical industry has undergone tremendous change through new technology development she says. Those developments include lower dose rates, improved formulations, more environmentally friendly products as well as target specific and biodegradable products.

"There's been a decline in total active ingredients as farmers now apply grams instead of kilograms per hectare. As well, alternative farming practices are kinder to the land," she notes.

"Through the use of new technology we will find ways to improve further," adds Agostino. "We hope the science model being developed will help others understand the essential role technology will need to play in the future, and its impact on securing a future for other inputs."

"DowElanco's support meant we could start this project that will be used by educators and industry representatives across Western Canada," says Betty Gabert, Alberta Agriculture agricultural awareness specialist and co-ordinator of Alberta Agriculture's AITC program.

Contact:	*Doreen Agostino*	*Betty Gabert*
	(905)830-5836	*(403)427-2171*

AFMRC anhydrous ammonia/direct seeding project grows

The combination of increasing fertilizing prices and a move to direct seeding has raised a question – whether anhydrous ammonia can be safely applied while seeding – the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre (AFMRC) is attempting to answer.

Anhydrous is the least expensive form of nitrogen. In direct seeding, farmers seed and fertilize in one pass over a field.

The AFMRC, in conjunction with other research partners, has completed the first year of a study looking at the effects of anhydrous ammonia fertilizer application when seeding wheat and canola. The other project partners are Flexi-Coil, the County of Lethbridge and Alberta Agriculture's soil and crop management branch.

The study compared five different double shoot openers applying up to 150 lbs. per acre of nitrogen fertilizer in two forms, granular urea and anhydrous ammonia.

"Overall, the results have been favorable with little damage to emergence caused by the anhydrous compared to the granular urea fertilizer," says Robert Maze, a project engineer at the centre.

Final yields using anhydrous were slightly higher than for the urea. However, the difference wasn't statistically significant. Maze does have a caution about the preliminary results. "Our work will continue. The 1994 tests were done in ideal seeding conditions, with lots of soil moisture. Drier conditions at seeding may effect emergence and final yield," he says.

Researchers will have a lot more data after the 1995 crop year he adds.Interest generated in the first year of the project has allowed it to expand to 12 sites in southern, central and northern Alberta.

"Over 5,000 plots will be put in to get a better handle on the effect of soil conditions, opener types and losses of anhydrous ammonia," says Maze.

Studying anhydrous ammonia losses is one of the unique aspects of the project, a co-operative effort between the AFMRC and the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville. In the first year, testing indicated losses with different openers ranged from near zero to 7.5 per cent of the applied fertilizer.

"Three of the 1995 project sites are set up specifically to review different opener performance," adds Maze. "They'll be part of direct seeding field days in Barons, Camrose and Grande Prairie."

The project has also picked up more co-operators and funding besides the original partners. New supporters include Sherritt Inc., Westco Fertilizers and a number of Western Canadian machinery manufacturers.

For more information on this project, contact Maze at the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre in Lethbridge at 329-1212. Government numbers are toll-free in Alberta by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact:	*Robert Maze*
	(403)329-1212

Leading edge pea seminar February 28

The 1995 *Field Pea Leading Edge Seminar* will maintain its reputation as bringing the very latest, updated information to its participants on February 28 in Westlock's New Community Hall.

Cont'd on page 3

"It's comprehensive and it's packed with highlights of the most current agronomy, market and industry research and information," says Ken Lopetinsky, Alberta Agriculture pulse and special crop specialist based in Barrhead

Lopetinsky himself will be providing some of that leading-edge information. Along with Bob Park, supervisor of special crops, he'll outline new pea varieties and yield results. "We'll be talking about varieties that are due to be approved for licensing just the week before the seminar," he notes.

A leading researcher in field pea production and conservation tillage will start off the seminar. George Clayton is a researcher based at Agriculture Canada's Beaverlodge research station

Major field pea diseases in Alberta and their control will be discussed by Sheau Fang Hwang from the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville. She'll share data from samples taken at 58 sites between Barrhead and Vegreville.

"As Albertans grow more and more acres of peas and in different crop rotations, they encounter different diseases. Dr. Sheau Fang's study is invaluable in helping growers prevent and control pea crop diseases," says Lopetinsky.

Another new technology up for discussion is a newly registered pesticide with the chemical name imazethapyr and the tradename Pursuit.

Field pea and lentil market updates will be provided by Blair Roth of Alberta Pool, Tim Ferner of Finora Canada and Joe St. Denis of St. Denis Seed Farm.

Another market for field peas will be discussed by Dave MacFarlane an Alberta Pool trader. The Pool has started milling pea meal and peacan meal for hogs in Camrose.

Other topics on the seminar agenda are a field pea agronomic update, pea harvesting with lifter fingers, results from two-years of on-farm demonstration of land rolling pea fields and weed control in field pea crops.

The seminar also includes a trade show. "We're planning about 15 to 20 booths from industry representatives," says Lopetinsky.

Pre-registration is required by February 24. To pre-register call one of these Alberta Agriculture district offices: Barrhead at (403)674-8213, Westlock at (403)349-4465 or Morinville at (403)939-4351. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

"Registration is only $20 and it includes a pancake breakfast and lunch," he notes.

The seminar is sponsored by zone three of the Alberta Pulse Growers Commission, the Municipal District of Westlock Agricultural Service Board, participating industry and Alberta Agriculture.

Contact: *Ken Lopetinsky*
(403)674-8213

Opportunity'95 for home-based and other entrepreneurs

If you own or want to start a home-based business, are considering self-employment, are caught in down-sizing or are exploring income diversification *Opportunity'95* is for you.

The third annual conference and exposition for home-based business and entrepreneurial management development runs March 3 and 4 in Red Deer.

"The conference is designed to give participants practical, hands-on methods to turn their ideas into profitable businesses and specifically look at the special needs associated with being an aspiring entrepreneur or home-based business person," says Joyce Lencucha an Alberta Agriculture agrifood development consultant

Opportunity'95 is presented by the Centre for Business Development in partnership with Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Economic Development and Tourism.

The 1995 conference line-up boasts three nationally acclaimed authors, lecturers and business authorities as well as the 1994 Canadian Woman Entrepreneur. One of those four is keynote speaker Peter Legge author of Canadian bestsellers How to Soar with the Eagles and You Can if You Believe You Can. The latter is the theme for his keynote motivational seminar

Legge himself started publishing one magazine in 1976. The company he co-founded now publishes 15 magazines and grosses $15 million annually.

Barb Lockert, formerly of Red Deer and the owner of Bosch Kitchen Centre, is featured in "lunch with an entrepreneur". The award winning entrepreneur will share how her business started, the struggles and the opportunities.

Concurrent sessions both days follow three streams – getting started, managing the entrepreneurial venture and growing your business. Day one subjects include working with your lender, cash flow, how to start a great company on $1,000 or less, entrepreneurial finance, financial freedom, guerilla financing, deducting the home office and business law.

Day two topics include secrets to successful marketing, six ways to free advertising, invention and innovation, researching and marketing your venture, your promotions plan, and how to keep your company and yourself out of trouble.

There's also a telecommunications technology session on day one. Day two features a choice of panel presentations with guest speakers. They'll discuss network marketing, franchising and capitalizing on the entrepreneurial spirit.

Lencucha is one of the day one speakers. She's joined by Lynn Stegman, an Alberta Agriculture business development specialist, to discuss seven steps to quality control in food processing. They'll also present information on maximizing profits through flexible networks on day two.

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Early bird registration, before February 17, is $195 for a complete package and $110 for a one-day registration. After February 17, the costs go up to $235 and $130 respectively.

Single tickets are also available for the Peter Legge seminar at $35 and $15 for lunch with an entrepreneur or breakfast with Jim Lang, author of Make Your Own Breaks and Become an Entrepreneur & Create Your Own Future.

For more information contact conference co-ordinator Kathy Christie at (403)342-2056 or fax (403)347-6980.

Contact:	*Joyce Lencucha*	*Lynn Stegman*
	(403)340-5358	*(403)782-3301*

Drumheller fair bridge to computer technology

Farm managers can cross the bridge to computer technology at *AG-COMPUFAIR* on March 8 in Drumheller.

"This one-day computer fair offers farm managers a hands-on learning experience in the latest in agriculture computer technology," says Ellen Frombach, chair of the *AG-COMPUFAIR* committee. The fair starts at 10 a.m. and runs through 8 p.m. at Drumheller's Stampede Barn.

"It's a bridge into the world of computer technology," adds the Alberta Agriculture rural development specialist.

AG-COMPUFAIR features a wide range of displays in farm management, marketing, production, bulletin board and distance education computer technology.

"Participants can learn how to access timely market information and electronic bulletin boards as well as using their computer to analyze their farm's performance," says Frombach.

"Participants will even be able to have hands-on experience with some of the technology," she adds. "You'll be able to evaluate accounting software or see how to set-up a marketing plan."

As well, five different free sessions are part of the fair. "Each session is a bridge into a particular type of computer technology," notes Frombach.

How to find information quickly on the information superhighway is Jerome Martin's topic. Martin, of the University of Alberta's extension faculty, is an Internet user himself.

Also presenting sessions are two Alberta Agriculture specialists. Agricultural engineer Murray Green will discuss global positioning. Bruce Waldie, computer applications specialist, will present FBMInet, a national agricultural bulletin board. Waldie is one of FBMInet's founders and the Alberta system operator.

Registration is only $10 before February 28. It goes up to $15 after that date. Registration is also available at the door on March 8.

For more information contact Frombach in Three Hills at (403)443-8525. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact:	*Ellen Frombach*	*Joan MacFarlane*
	(403)443-8525	*(403)948-2624*

Outlooks by MAP available

Even if you couldn't attend Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP'95), you can still see what the conference's crystal ball gazers forecast for agricultural markets.

Speciality crops, crops, livestock, international trade and Canadian financial outlooks are included in a special compilation of the conference speakers' presentations. This *MAP'95 Outlook Proceedings* binder is available for $25.

"The proceedings cover all five outlooks from the final day of the MAP'95 conference," notes Doug Barlund, an Alberta Agriculture management specialist and a member of the MAP program committee.

"You can look at these proceedings as an inexpensive decision tool," he adds. "Any advice you pick up from MAP's expert speaker outlooks could repay that $25 many times over."

To order the outlook proceedings, send a cheque for $25 (includes GST) made payable to AFSC MAP'95 to Alberta Agriculture, Coronation District Office, Box 160, Coronation, Alberta, T0C 1C0.

For more information call the MAP hotline at 1-800-387-6030.

Contact:	*Doug Barlund*
	(403)556-4245

Agri-News briefs

Logan of Lomond Farm Woman of the Year

Marie Logan of Lomond was named Alberta's *Farm Woman of the Year* to conclude the fifth Alberta Farm Women's Conference. Logan was one of 16 Alberta farm women nominated for the Alberta Farm Women's Network award. Other nominees were Jackie Anderson of Rimbey, Vera Connell of Consort, Sally Anne Downes of Mountainview, Gladys Forchuk of Vauxhall, Hazel George of Airdrie, Holly Hallett (deceased) of Carstairs, Audrey Kelto of Warburg, Joyce Lanz of Rolling Hills, Edna Mannerfeldt of Sylvan Lake, Valinda Lea Michalski of Peers, Louise Pickering of Bentley, Linda Rasmuson of Gwynne, Maureen Schwab of Drayton Valley, Ida Wagner of Duffield and Joyce Westerlund of Oyen. Alice Brown, chair of the selection committee, told the award luncheon audience the nominees made her "very proud to be a farmer and a woman in rural Alberta". Logan has deep roots in her community as all her grandparents homesteaded in the Lomond area. She manages the cattle and does the records for Wheatcrest Farms which she owns and operates with her husband Glenn. A 20-year plus 4-H leader, Logan has also been instrumental in the re-opening of the community's high school and establishing a regional library system. For more information, contact Faye Mayberry at (403)886-4129.

Chevon marketing seminar February 18

The Alberta Goat Breeders Association (AGBA) is hosting a chevon – goat meat – marketing seminar February 18 at the Capri Centre in Red Deer. The seminar will emphasize alternatives and solutions to the current situation. Speakers include Gordon Wells of Tradex International, Colin Campbell of Agriculture Canada and Paul Murphy of Food and Beverage Canada. Representatives of other non-traditional meat products, such as wild boar and game birds, will also share their experience. The seminar is $50 for AGBA members and $65 for non-members. Only pre-registration is accepted. The deadline is February 10. To register, or for more information, contact Lesley Jackson in Calmar at (403)985-3863.

Save $40 by registering early for Western Canadian Dairy Seminar

Registering for the 13th annual Western Canadian Dairy Seminar before February 15 will save you $40. Registration is $125 per person before February 15 and $165 after that date. There's a daily rate of $85 and a student rate of $50. Registration rates haven't changed in the last four years. The Western Canadian Dairy Seminar is March 14 through 17 at Red Deer's Capri Centre. Seminar brochures are available at all Alberta Agriculture district offices. For registration and other information, contact the University of Alberta at (403)492-2601 or fax (403)492-9130.

Basic pruning courses in early March

Two basic pruning courses will run at Alberta Agriculture's Crop Diversification Centre North March 7 and 8 and again March 9 and 10. [The Crop Diversification Centre North is the new name of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre.] The course offers hands-on instruction. Topics covered include plant structures, tree and shrub pruning, insects and diseases, plant hardiness and pruning fruit trees. The course concludes with an outdoor practical and a written exam. Seating is limited and pre-registration is required no later than February 21. The cost is $50 per person. The course is offered jointly by the Landscape Alberta Nursery Trades Association (LANTA) and the Crop Diversification Centre North. For more information or to register, contact LANTA in Edmonton at (403)444-2152.

Airphoto interpretation and GIS course extension courses

The University of Alberta's extension faculty is offering two agriculture related courses in early March. Airphoto interpretation for resource planning, development and management is scheduled for March 1 through 3. The intensive course describes the tools and techniques of airphoto interpretation and remote sensing as they apply to natural resource development and environmental management. Another three-day course is designed to give participants a working knowledge of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and mastery of IDRISS-GIS software basics. This course is March 7 through 9. Enrolment in both courses is limited For more information call Sheila Greenberg at (403)492-3029.

From Field to Table conference March 3 & 4

Sustainable agriculture and food systems, food security and building urban-rural connections are topics at the *From Field to Table: Connecting farmers, consumers and communities* conference March 3 and 4 in Edmonton. The conference will explore whether farmers and consumers are well served by the present system of how food is grown, processed, marketed and delivered. Conference workshops describe policies, programs and projects designed to promote food security and sustainability both locally and overseas. Keynote speaker Brewster Kneen will provide the theme address on March 3 and open a forum the next morning. Workshop topics include marketing alliances for sustainability, stories from Mexico and Earthkeeping's *Walking Together* program, perspectives on GATT and NAFTA, the place and potential of farmers' markets, collective kitchens and co-ops for low-income groups, community shared agriculture and u-pick, urban food production and community gardens, and farmer-to-farmer extension. Full conference registration is $25 before February 10 and $30 after that date. Student registration is only $10. Single day registration is available. The conference is organized by Sustainable Agriculture and Global Environment (SAGE), Earthkeeping, the University of Alberta International Centre and CUSO. For more information contact June Carrington at (403)439-4663.

Calgary Bull Sale and Seed Fair and Hay Show coming March 4

The Calgary Exhibition and Stampede will be busy in early March with its annual bull sale and also the 47th annual Calgary Seed Fair & Hay Show. The seed fair and hay show runs March 4 through 7. Over $8,000 in prize money and awards will be presented to winning exhibitors. Award presentations will be March 5 at 2 p.m. in the International Room of the Agriculture Building. For more information, contact Michel Higginbotham in Calgary at (403)261-0114 or toll-free at 1-800-661-1260.

Waste management and utilization course Feb.21-23

Learning about the nature and source of waste, land treatments and waste treatments are the focus of a three-day waste management and utilization extension course at the University of Alberta. The course runs February 21 through 23. Enrolment is limited. For more information, contact Sheila Greenberg at (403)492-3029.

Professional development weekend for farm women

Exploring your potential is the theme for the 1995 professional development weekend for farm women. The program runs March 3 through 5 at the Goldeye Centre in Nordegg. This year's theme is geared to inspiration, in particular to inspire participants to consider their dreams, goals and aspirations. The program is open to all farm women in Alberta and northeastern British Columbia. Participants will travel by coach from Red Deer to the Goldeye Centre and back. Registration is $135 per person, based on double occupancy, and covers accommodation, all meals and the coach round trip. Registration is first-come, first-served. For more information contact Laurie Park at (403)998-5206, Laura Lee Billings at (403)854-5500 or JoAnne Meents at (403)290-4648 or 1-800-332-1416.

Value added processing fruits and vegetables February 24

Going beyond fresh markets and jams and jellies is the purpose of a one-day seminar February 24 in Saskatoon. The workshop discusses quality and production processes to enhance shelf-life and storage life of a raw product. Also on the agenda are options for various processing technologies. One session deals with minimal processing for hotel, restaurant and institutional markets. Another focuses on advanced processing technologies including juicing, dehydration, and fruit and vegetable components as colorants and flavor ingredients for the food industry. For more information contact Grant Wood at the University of Saskatchewan's extension division at (306)966-5586 or fax (306)966-5567.

Human side of agriculture discussed by banquet speaker

While technical, trade and production topics dominate the 13th annual Western Canadian Dairy Seminar, participants will also hear about the human side of agriculture. Banquet speaker David Irvine will discuss the human side of a business that often combines family dynamics in a work environment. Lethbridge-based Irvine, whose training is in social work, is a popular speaker with rural Alberta audiences. The Western Canadian Dairy Seminar is March 14 through 17 at Red Deer's Capri Centre. Seminar brochures are available at all Alberta Agriculture district offices. For registration and other information, contact the University of Alberta at (403)492-2601 or fax (403)492-9130.

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Soils and Crops '95 Feb. 23-24

Soils and Crops '95 runs February 23 and 24 at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. Day one morning conference topics are pest management or new developments, and environment or soils in the afternoon. Friday morning sessions are a choice between precision farming and new crops. Registration is $55 and proceedings are an additional $25, either printed or on computer disk. For more information call (306)966-5539.

Pulse cleaning and processing February 22

The University of Saskatchewan's extension division offers a pulse cleaning and processing workshop February 22. The workshop is designed to give participants a thorough understanding of drying, cleaning and grading pulses as well as secondary processes such as decortication (dehulling), splitting, polishing and grinding are also on the agenda. The registration fee is $40. For more information contact Grant Wood in Saskatoon at

(306)966-5586.

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AGRI-NEWS

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CANADIANA

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Trichomoniasis new to Western Canada

Alberta cattle producers shouldn't underestimate a relatively old North American disease that has appeared in Western Canada.

Bovine trichomoniasis is a venereal disease spread during natural breeding. Both bulls and cows can be carriers. Cows become temporarily infertile. The disease has been recognized in North America since the late 1800s. More than a century later, it found its way into Western Canadian cattle herds.

During the summer of 1994, bulls in northeastern and southern Alberta were found to be carriers of the *Tritriomonas foetus* parasite that causes the disease.

"It's an insidious disease that can significantly reduce your herd's reproductive ability," says Alberta Agriculture's Cornelia Kreplin. "Open cow rates of 11 to 84 per cent have been identified in infected herds."

Those rates, warns Kreplin, should tell Alberta cattle producers to be watchful for signs in their herd. [See separate stories this issue.]

"The eventual impact on cow-calf producers and the beef industry is economic," she notes. "For example, estimates are $500 million is lost annually in the U.S. due to bovine trichomoniasis."

Losses include fewer calves being born, the cost of overwintering open cows, marketing light-weight late calves and the costs of culling and replacing infected animals.

For more information about identifying and controlling the disease, contact you veterinarian.

Contact: *Dr. Cornelia Kreplin*
(403)422-1889

Bulls carriers, cows show symptoms of T.foetus

Open cows may be the first sign to producers that their herd is infected with the contagious and potentially devastating disease called bovine trichomoniasis.

"Bulls don't show any clinic signs of the disease – they are carriers who infect cows they breed. It's your cows that will probably tip you off to this venereal disease," says Cornelia Kreplin, an Alberta Agriculture veterinarian and head of the animal health laboratories pathology section.

The *Triticbomonas foetus* (*T. foetus*) parasite causes the disease. It can live in the reproductive tracts of both bulls and cows. It's spread

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by infected bulls to cows or from infected cows to bulls during breeding.

In bulls, the parasite is found on the penis and its sheath. An infected bull can rapidly spread the *T. foetus* parasite throughout the herd by natural breeding. Older bulls can become permanent carriers and infect cows year after year.

Cows too can become carriers. The parasite causes infertility and infertile cows can become a source of infection to their herdmates as a bull breeds.

"Infertility and vaginal discharges in recently bred cows are two of the most common indications of a new herd infection," says Kreplin. The disease mostly commonly causes early embryonic death usually within the first 60 days of gestation. Abortion and uterine infections also occur. However, the disease doesn't prevent conception.

"Most cows conceive within two to five months after the *T. foetus* clears from the uterus. This is a short-term immunity and cows can become re-infected in the next breeding season," says Kreplin.

A trichomoniasis diagnosis is usually made after pregnancy checks and an unacceptable number of cows are found open. This diagnosis can be confirmed by collecting samples from bulls for culture. [See separate story this issue on disease management.]

Contact: Dr. Cornelia Kreplin
(403)422-1889

Negative and clean bulls key to managing "trich"

Potentially herd damaging bovine trichomoniasis can be prevented and eventually be eliminated even if it's already infected your herd says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"There are two basic management principles," says Cornelia Kreplin, head of the pathology section of the animal health laboratories branch. "Use only negative bulls and minimize the potential contact of clean bulls with infected cows.

"You have a number of management options to achieve those aims," she adds. Kreplin has presented these options at a number of information sessions around the province.

Bulls and cows can be tested for the *Tritichomonas foetus* (*T. foetus*) parasite that causes the venereal disease. Fluid from a bull's penile sheath is required for the test.

"Your veterinarian can take culture samples, and it's recommended bulls be tested three times, approximately one week apart," says Kreplin.

"Cows should be pregnancy checked. Infertility, repeat breedings and abortions are common symptoms, so a preg check can determine open cows," she adds.

It's recommended both positive bulls and open cows be culled to prevent further spread of the disease. "This includes heifers and consistently open and late calving cows," says Kreplin.

To control spread of the disease, producers should also separate suspected infected and clean cattle into two herds.

"Because the disease is spread during breeding, you should also change breeding practices to reduce risks," says Kreplin. "Keep the breeding season short to make it easier to spot open cows. Use young, culture-negative bulls who haven't been exposed to infected cows or artificial insemination. Also, limit your herd additions to pregnant cows."

Disease risks increase when cows from many herds are pastured and bred together. The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association encourages community pasture managers to only take cows with calves at foot into their breeding field.

"Eventually will eliminate *T. foetus* from a cattle herd," she adds. "Management is critical because veterinary medicines aren't available and other treatments are difficult and not always successful."

No oral or intravenous drugs for bovine trichomoniasis have been approved for use in Canada. Treatment of the sheath around a bull's penis is both difficult and seldom successful.

A bovine trichomoniasis vaccine has been licensed for use in Canada and is available through Alberta veterinarians. However, its effectiveness as a preventative measure hasn't been determined. "But, it does appear to help control the spread of *T.foetus* in infected herds," notes Kreplin.

For more information about managing bovine trichomoniasis, contact your local veterinarian.

Contact: Dr. Cornelia Kreplin
(403)422-1889

Special crop contract prices improve in '95

Initial contract bids indicate specialty crop traders aren't about to give up acreage without a fight says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Prices have improved across the board compared with bids from a year ago," says Matthew Machielse of the market analysis and statistics branch.

Starting the year on an optimistic note are dry peas. "Peas are positioned to compete very well against wheat," he notes.

"Reports are some producers have been so encouraged by these bids that they have priced up to 50 per cent of new crop production," adds Machielse.

Bids for new crop edible grades of both yellow and green peas have been above $5 per bushel (farm gate).

Feed pea bids are also higher, up about 50 cents per bushel, at around $4.50. This, says Machielse, is a reasonable mid-point bid depending on the particulars of a contract.

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Lentil bids are up 2.5 to 3.5 cents per pound for both production and acreage contracts. "A bid of 18 cents per pound delivered to the plant should certainly pencil in very well as a starting point for your marketing plan," he says.

Mustard bids are up a similar amount. Yellow mustard offers are slightly higher, at 16.5 cents per pounds, than brown and oriental at 15 cents. From a cost of production point of view, says Machielse, "Producers will be encouraged to maintain last year's acreage."

Canaryseed also started '95 strongly, especially given projected high farm stock levels. Acreage contracts have been bid at 13.5 cents per pound on the first 500 pounds of production. "Likely the profitability of competing crops will substantially reduce canaryseed acreage from its record 1994 levels," he notes.

Impending change to the Western Grain Transportation Act (WGTA) is a factor in the 1995 crop year. However, says Machielse, the effect on feed peas and wheat will be similar and shouldn't influence grower decisions between the two crops.

"But, higher value, lower volume crops such as mustard and lentils will certainly have an improved competitive advantage on a per acre comparison basis."

Contact: *Matthew Machielse*
(403)427-5387

Looking out for lentils

With equal amounts of good and bad news in the lentil market, estimating 1995 lentil acreage is difficult says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"The relatively strong new crop bids illustrate the trade's concern over possible acreage declines. At the same time, wheat production – in particular durum – will likely expand into potential 1995 lentil acreage," says Matthew Machielse of the market analysis and statistics branch.

A large acreage decline – approximately 20 per cent or 200,000 acres in Western Canada – would support new crop prices he says. Factors that will pressure acreage reduction include reoccurring crop disease in Manitoba, possible changes to the GRIP program and plentiful on-farm supplies of midgrade lentils.

"Last year's high quality crop has worked against any potential price spikes," he adds. Top grade price spikes did occur in the last two years.

Currently the high grade market is strong. The reason is strong global demand for Canadian lentils says Machielse. "Although our stock levels are projected at record highs, producers should be aware that the global lentil stock situation is relatively tight." The current export pace should boost Canadian sales to between 280,000 and 300,000 tonnes for 1994-95.

Canada's share of the global trade enables some passing on of increased freight changes to foreign customers he notes. So, a higher freight rate would have less impact on lentil production. As well, compared to other crops such as wheat and field peas, freight makes up a smaller proportion of per acre lentil production costs

Initial new crop bids are encouraging he adds. [See separate story this issue.] "Producers in traditionally high quality production areas should find initial new crop bids promising. Bids of 18 cents per pound are likely to be a very profitable floor for the coming year."

Contact: *Matthew Machielse*
(403)427-5387

Holding back calves strategy pays off in January

January was an exceptional month for Western feeder cattle producers with large volumes of cattle marketed at attractive prices says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

Many producers were rewarded as relatively inexpensive feed costs and a strengthening market helped make backgrounding a winning proposition says Ron Gietz of the market analysis and statistics branch.

"For many producers the strategy of holding back calves from the traditional October marketing period paid off, particularly in regions with a glut of hay supplies," he adds

"But," cautions Gietz, "there's no guarantee that the same strategy will pay off next year as backgrounding margins are typically very thin."

Prices for all classes of feeder cattle strengthened in January thanks to the upward trend in fed cattle markets. Mid-range quotes for 800 to 900 lb. feeder steers in Alberta surpassed the $100/cwt. level, with a volume of sales above the $105 mark. Light feeders also saw strong demand and some buyers got a head start on assembling packages of grass cattle.

Last year feeder cattle prices rose until the slaughter market crashed in April. Although the market is off to a flying start this year, Gietz says, it's unlikely prices for heavy feeders will jump a further $5/cwt. or more between now and April.

"If they do," he adds, "feedlots will likely be positioning themselves for a repeat of last year's large losses."

"Steady, firm prices between now and spring are the most likely trend in local feeder cattle markets," he predicts. The best possibility for price gains will be for the lightest and leanest cattle.

"Alberta feedlots continued to import one to two thousand head of feeder cattle per week from the U.S. during January," he notes. "This indicates that our feeder cattle market is still at a slight premium to outside markets."

Contact: *Ron Gietz*
(403)427-5376

Good news starts year in fed cattle markets

Canadian fed cattle markets got off to a fast start in the New Year and prices should remain steady until large supplies come later in the year says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"By late last month Alberta Direct Sale steer prices climbed into the mid to upper $90/cwt. range – a large gain from last fall's lows of below $80," says Ron Gietz of the market analysis and statistics branch.

Two factors contributed to the price gains, a firmer U.S. market and a weaker Canadian dollar.

"The third component of price, local basis, was actually quite wide during January, at $8 to $9 per hundredweight. If Alberta packers had been as aggressive in pursuing cattle this January as they were last year, prices would have reached the $100 mark by late January.

"In any event, few were complaining as the feedlot sector is simply glad to be back on the positive side of the ledger again," he adds.

Gietz currently forecasts Alberta Direct Sale Steer (ADS-Steer) prices at monthly average of $96/cwt. in February, $97 in March, $95 in April, $91 in May and dropping to $88 by June.

"So far it looks as though Canadian fed cattle prices could average slightly above 1994 levels, provided the Canadian dollar continues to trade just above the 70 cent level," notes Gietz.

Large December placements of cattle on to feed in the U.S. are a warning of larger fed cattle supplies later in the year he says. "If placements continue large in coming months, as expected, deferred futures prices will remain on the defensive."

Contact: *Ron Gietz*
(403)427-5376

Positive developments in hog market

Recent positive developments in slaughter hog markets have an Alberta Agriculture market analyst adjusting his prices forecasts higher.

Ron Gietz, of the market analysis and statistics branch, projects a February average of $1.45/kg (dressed) moving to $1.50 in March, down to $1.45 in April, back to $1.50 in May, further up to $1.60 in June and down to $1.55 for July.

All forecasts are based on a 71 cent Canadian dollar which is a major unknown factor in the market he says. "However the drop in the Canadian dollar during January was a positive surprise for livestock markets," he adds.

Another positive factor in the hog market is that slaughter hog markets are doing much better than was anticipated. U.S. slaughter volumes are lower than expected based on the December inventory report.

"As well, packer competition appears to be more intense than last fall resulting in narrower producer-retail margins," notes Gietz. "In Canada, packers sweetened the prices in recent months through a variety of formulas resulting in a positive effect on producer returns in some provinces, including Alberta."

Contact: *Ron Gietz*
(403)427-5376

Canadian barley exports up

Canadian barley exports are running ahead of last year's shipments to mid-January says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

Barley exports are up 6.6 per cent from the same time in the 1993-94 crop year. "In particular, exports to the U.S. are much higher than a year ago," says Al Dooley. "On the other hand, shipments to Saudi Arabia are lagging behind the year-ago pace."

Overall the Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) January pool return outlook shows no change in returns from feed barley sales. However, the malting barley market continues to be promising and the CWB has raised its estimate for two-row malting barley, reflecting a shortage of available six-row from Australia.

"While I don't believe there's a great deal of downside in the barley market right now, if for no other reasons that the CWB's pool return outlook, transportation issues are on the horizon and the anticipated changes don't bode well for grain returns in the short term," he cautions.

The U.S. corn market, a counterpart to barley in the feedgrain complex, is caught between strong export activity that provides price support and a huge 1994 crop. Corn prices are likely to continue a slow and steady upward climb over the next months says Dooley.

"There's just too much crop out there for a sharp increase," he adds. "A sudden fall is more likely if farmers collectively decide to sell quickly for cash flow or other reasons."

World feedgrain 1994-95 production is pegged a record high 866 million tonnes. The U.S. corn crop is about 30 per cent of this total.

Contact: *Al Dooley*
(403)427-5387

Kobe earthquake affects canola market

While the earthquake in Kobe, Japan has been a factor in weaker canola and soybean prices, it doesn't appear the earthquake will have a large effect on canola markets says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

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"Information on damage is sketchy, but a U.S. report says there were seven crushing facilities in Kobe that accounted for about 20 per cent of Japan's total oilseed crushing and 25 per cent of its canola crush," says Al Dooley of the market analysis and statistics branch.

"The question for the trade is how quickly will these facilities be back in operation given damage to them as well as transportation and port facilities," he adds. "However, there appears to be unused crushing capacity elsewhere in Japan."

As well, he notes, some analysts suggest canola's relatively high oil content makes it more desirable when system capacity is a concern and if vegetable oil supply is an immediate worry.

Both canola and soybean futures did move lower through January notes Dooley. Soybeans are plagued by a number of negative market fundamentals, particularly a promising South American crop.

"Interest in canola remains good. For Alberta producers, a weak Canadian dollar is another plus. Some producers seem to be waiting to price what canola they have left, but they should keep in mind canola isn't likely to get much support from the soybean market as long as conditions remain good in South America," he says.

Flaxseed markets have been strong in the last few weeks. European buying, the weak Canadian dollar and reluctant farmer selling have all helped support price.

"There's no shortage of flaxseed in Canada and farmers aren't hurrying to sell it either with a strong market through the season. However," warns Dooley, "when the Europeans back away from this market, as they eventually will, values will drop."

Contact: *Al Dooley*
(403)427-5387

Paszkowski reacts to U.S.end-use certificates

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's minister is disappointed with the U.S. Agriculture Department decision to implement end-use certificate requirements for Canadian wheat.

The regulations come into effect on February 27, 1995. U.S. importers will then be required to store and handle Canadian wheat separately from U.S. wheat.

"This additional U.S. restriction on Canadian wheat is in direct response to Canadian end-use certificate requirements for U.S. wheat," says Walter Paszkowski. "We must act now to remove our Canadian end-use certificate requirements.

"We have worked hard to encourage investment in Alberta and to negotiate a free-trade environment. We have also worked hard to end domestic policies that limit opportunities for our producers, and we remain committed to these goals," he says as a summary of his government's position.

"In anticipation of this move by the U.S., I wrote my federal counterpart the Honourable Ralph Goodale on November 15, 1994, asking him to clarify his government's position. I also asked him what action they would take to prevent our export system from being tied up in a knot. To date, I have not received a response," he adds

The new U.S. end-use certificate system will have a significant impact on the Canadian wheat industry predicts Paszkowski. "The requirements of the U.S. end-use certificates system are burdensome and will restrict and reduce Canadian wheat exports.

"This is especially true for Alberta wheat producers because there is a significant market for Alberta grain shipped by truck to U.S. elevators just south of the border. Many of these elevators do not have the facilities to handle separate storage.

"In addition, grain will likely be price discounted due to added costs for segregated handling and the administrative burden of complying with the required reporting system. The net result of these U.S. restrictions will be an increase in the cost of doing business.

"Again, I call on the federal government to once and for all remove Canadian end-use certificates requirements for U.S. wheat. The U.S. has made it clear they will end restrictions on Canadian wheat if we are willing to do the same for American wheat," says Paszkowski. "How long are we going to allow our federal government to create systems that act as barriers for our producers? Even with the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement, the U.S. market still remains a glass window for our wheat producers. They can see the opportunities that exist behind the glass, but there are no doors to gain access."

Contact: *Brian Hlus*
Executive assistant
to the minister
(403) 427-2137

C.D. Radke
Deputy minister
(403)427-1957

Farm woman professional development explores potential

> *Inspired persons know why they do what they do and why they want what they want. They are not shackled by the pettiness that restrains so many lives. The inspired person comes to life with a purpose and passion, with the daily desire to grow and contribute. If that's what you want, then let's spend some time together.*
>
> *David McNally, Even Eagles Need A Push*

Inspiration is a key theme in the 1995 retreat dedicated specifically to the professional development of farm women at the Goldeye Centre in Nordegg March 3 through 5.

The weekend offers farm women ideas about how to set personal goals, develop communication skills and enhance their leadership abilities within their family, business and community

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The 1995 *Exploring your potential: a professional development weekend for farm women* marks the fourth year Alberta Pool, Alberta Agriculture and Westco Fertilizers have sponsored the retreat.

"The agenda for this year's program is quite unique and offers participants a good blend of both practical and inspiring topics," says JoAnne Meents, Alberta Pool communications manager and one of the weekend program organizers.

"It's our hope that women will grow and develop through participation in the program and then take that new found growth and confidence back home to their communities and families," she adds.

Program facilitators are from the University of Calgary. Loren Falkenberg is a management professor and Elaine Thomas is the director of the career development office in the management faculty.

The retreat cost is $135 per person, based on double occupancy, and covers accommodation for Friday and Saturday, all meals and travel between Red Deer and the Goldeye Centre in Nordegg. Participants are expected to make their own way to Red Deer, then travel by bus between there and Nordegg.

The registration deadline is February 15. The program is open to all farm women in Alberta and northwestern B.C., the Pool's operating area.

For more information, contact Meents in Calgary at (403)290-4648 or 1-800-332-1416, Laura Lee Billings, Alberta Agriculture in Hanna at (403)854-5500 or Laurie Park of Westco Fertilizer in Fort Saskatchewan at (403)998-5206.

Contact:	*JoAnne Meents*	*Laura Lee Billings*
	(403)290-4648	*(403)854-5500*

Agri-News briefs

World wheat production pegged higher for '95-'96

The International Wheat Council (IWC) predicts 1995-96 world wheat production will total 560 million tonnes. "Even with this predicted increase, it's likely the next year will be another year of relatively tight world stocks," says Al Dooley, an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. Global ending stocks for the end of 1994-95 are forecast at a very low 118 million tonnes. "Production problems in any major producing country could make new crop wheat markets volatile," he adds. For more information on wheat markets, contact Dooley in Edmonton at (403)427-5387.

Olds College, HHRC and Calgary school partner in youth training program

Forest Lawn High School in Calgary is the place to be if you're a youth searching for a horticultural job. The school and Olds College, with funding from the Horticulture Human Resources Council (HHRC), have started a training program. Young people between the ages of 18 and 24, with or without previous experience or a high school diploma, can learn more about horticulture in an intensive 47 week program. The program combines practical work experience with theoretical study. It also includes job placement work for a majority of the program. For more information contact project co-ordinator Geraldine Byrne at (403)556-8254 in Olds.

Dairy Congress forage entry deadline February 17

February 17 is the deadline for the annual Alberta Dairy Congress forage competition. The competition has six classes. They are legume hay, grass-legume hay, grass hay, haylage, cereal silage and export hay (timothy). Entries must be from 1994 production. Entries can be dropped off at any Alberta Agriculture district office.

Seed fairs on March agenda

Four major seed shows will be held in Alberta during the month of March. First up is the *North American Seed Fair* during Lethbridge's AgExpo March 1 through 4. For more information call the Lethbridge Exhibition office at (403)328-4491. The 47th annual *Calgary Seed Fair and Hay Show* is March 4 through 7 at Stampede Park. For more information call the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede agriculture department at (403)261-0114 or toll-free oustide the Calgary area at 1-800-661-1260. The 10th annual *Peace Country Classic* Agri-Show also has a seed fair. It runs March 9 through 11 in Grande Prairie at Evergreen Park's grains and oilseed pavilion. Its entry deadline is noon on March 7. For more information call the Grande Prairie Regional Agricultural Society at (403)532-3279. The final seed show is in Edmonton March 22 through 25. It's the 12th annual *Edmonton Northlands Pedigreed Seed Show*. Entries for this show close on March 1. For more information call Edmonton Northlands agriculture department at (403)471-7260.

Strong seasonal increase likely in lamb market

Alberta lamb prices will likely follow the usual seasonal price increase between January and May, but how large it will be isn't certain says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. Between 1989 and 1993 prices consistently increased by an average of more than 15 per cent in that five month period. "In 1995 this seasonal increase would translate into local lamb prices in the $100 range by spring, given a steady dollar," says Ron Gietz. "Whether or not we'll see a full seasonal effect, after all the market disruptions in the last two years, remains to be seen," he adds. Gietz does expect lower U.S. production to eventually boost prices. "All in all, lamb is the most positive sector of the livestock industry for Alberta producers," he notes. For more information, contact Gietz in Edmonton at (403)427-5376.

Alberta slaughter fed cattle set new record

Alberta slaughter steer and heifer exports to the U.S. set a new volume record in 1994. The figures are according to provincial branch inspection data. A total of 426,805 head went south. The largest volumes were in the second and third quarters of the year. The previous record was set in 1992 when over 388,000 head were shipped to the U.S. Just over 26,000 head of feeder cattle were shipped to the U.S. from Alberta in 1994. That's the lowest volume since 1989. "So far, 1995 is shaping up as another year of large exports of fed cattle going south," says Ron Gietz, an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "I expect feeder exports to remain relatively low and the small but steady import of U.S. feeders into Alberta to continue during the first quarter of 1995," he adds. For more information, contact Gietz in Edmonton at (403)427-5376.

Canola council convention March 5-7 in Vancouver

An evolving partnership is the theme of the 28th annual Canola Council of Canada convention. The convention runs March 5 through 8 at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Vancouver. Sessions feature speakers representing the Japanese canola industry, Canadian crushers, shippers and exporters, and researchers. Industry tours round out the convention. Choices include terminal elevators, the West Coast Refinery and a local food manufacturer. Day rates and session rates are available. For more information contact Wendy Miller or Jane McDonald in Winnipeg at (204)982-2100.

Goats and food processing wind-up Camrose diversification workshops

The final two workshops in an agricultural diversification series run February 17 and 18 in Camrose. The topics are goats for meat and milk, and food processing. Each two-day course includes 14 hours of instruction plus 10 farm business management units to review at home for only $150. Two registrants from the same farm in a single course are $260. The goats course instructor is Sara Emond, an Alberta goat breeder. She'll cover herd health, handling facilities, regulations, marketing, a management calendar, reproduction, and growth and production target topics. Food processing moves through personal assessment, researching the market, developing your product and business plan, production management, sales and distribution, finance and risk management. To register – with a credit card – or for more information, call Sheila Greenberg at the University of Alberta extension faculty at (403)492-3029.

Western Canada's dairy industry in 2010?

Four speakers will do some crystal ball gazing at a session of the 13th annual Western Canadian dairy seminar March 14 through 17 in Red Deer. The afternoon of March 16 is devoted to looking at Western Canada's dairy production and processing industry in 2010. A producer's perspective will be given by Bruce Beattie, chair of the Alberta Milk Producers. Daryl Kraft from the University of Manitoba will provide an economist's perspective Dairyworld CEO David Coe will furnish a processor's perspective. Also on the agenda is Mexican Francisco Fuentes-Terrazas who'll discuss the opportunities and challenges arising from freer trade and in particular the NAFTA agreement. The seminar covers production and technical topics. Seminar brochures are available at all Alberta Agriculture district offices. For registration and other information, contact the University of Alberta at (403)492-2601 or fax (403)492-9130.

Shearing and wool handling workshop March 18&19

Olds College offers a workshop specifically for novice sheep producers with limited shearing and wool handling experience on March 18 and 19. Participants will receive hands-on shearing experience as well as instruction about equipment types and their availability; care, maintenance and selling equipment; animal rotation; preparing fleece; and, shearing techniques. For more information call Olds College at (403)556-8377.

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AGRI-NEWS

February 20, 1995

CANADIANA

MAR 14 1995

Not just Santa and skiers need snow

While snow on the ground is a good thing if you're a skier, it's a must for farmers.

"With the small amount of snow that has fallen so far this winter plus the warm weather, dugout water supplies are on the minds of many producers who rely on pasture dugouts to water their cattle over the summer months," says Darcy Fitzgerald, agrologist with Alberta Agriculture's engineering branch.

"Collecting what snow does fall in and around your dugout can certainly help to ease some of those fears," he adds.

"The management technique for collecting snow requires three basic things: the right fencing materials, proper location, and some help from mother nature," says Don George, soil conservation technician with the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) in Vegreville.

To provide farmers with more information about the benefits of snow harvesting to increase dugout water supplies, a demonstration project has been set up at the Parkland Agricultural Research Initiative (PARI) demonstration farm near Mundare. The PARI farm, with 350 cultivated and 275 grass covered acres, was setup to demonstrate research on a field scale to the public.

George started the snow-fencing project in the fall of 1994 with help from a group of interested project partners. They included the PFRA, Alberta Agriculture, PARI, Phoenix Fence (an Edmonton fencing company), DuPont Canada and the County of Lamont.

"Through Canada-Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (CAESA) funding and the support of other partners, this long-term project will provide a great opportunity to see some of the methods of improving both quality and quantity of pasture dugouts," notes George.

The project's first phase was constructing two dugouts. Both are in areas of the PARI farm where runoff is rather limited but the ability to collect snow is good.

An eight foot high horizontal, wood-slate Wyoming snow fence was built on the windward side of one dugout. "The Wyoming style fence is one the PFRA has used quite a bit in southern Saskatchewan and we are interested in how it will work in this part of the country," says George.

The second dugout was fenced on all four sides with a combination of DuPont's plastic four foot high L-300 and I-250 Vexvar drift control fence. In ideal conditions, it has the potential to capture up to 550 gallons per linear foot of fence.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

"There are two benefits from this method – you capture snow from all four sides of the dugout as well as keep cattle out of the dugout," says Fitzgerald.

Phoenix Fence Ltd. of Edmonton provided all the metal posts and enlisted the support of DuPont Canada to supply the plastic fence for the project. "When this project was initially put together, Phoenix Fence's Sonny Feris was really excited to help us. From the beginning, he could see the direct benefits this type of project would have for producers," adds Fitzgerald.

Phase two of the project is installing wind and solar-powered pumps to pump water into troughs so cattle don't get into the dugouts. "This is another management technique that puts dollars in the pockets of the producer," says George.

"First, the dugouts last a great deal longer because they don't get trampled in. Second, water quality is better and that translates into better herd performance," adds Fitzgerald.

Contact:	*Darcy Fitzgerald* *(403)427-2181*	*Don George* *(403)632-2919*

Alberta bison show and sale debut March 23 and 24

Alberta's first bison show and sale will come to Edmonton Northlands March 23 and 24.

The *Wildrose Classic Bison Show and Sale*, organized by the Peace Country and Southern Alberta Bison Association, is being held in conjunction with the 29th annual *Northlands Farm and Ranch Show*.

Entries in four classes will be judged on March 23. The sale follows the next day. Representatives of both associations as well as Alberta Agriculture will also have information displays. The displays, bison pens and sale are open to the general public.

Ken Olson, a director of the Peace Country Bison Association, says the organizers see the show and sale as an opportunity to showcase one of Alberta's newest livestock industries.

"We want to be able to show and explain the industry to potential producers and answer any questions they might have," says Olson, a member of the show committee. The Fort Assiniboine bison producer bought his first bison calves in 1990.

Bison shows are something new. The Canadian Bison Association held its second annual show last fall at Regina's Agribition.

The shows don't resemble typical livestock shows. Bison aren't led around a ring to be judged. Judges look at conformation from outside the pen.

The Wild Rose Classic's judges are all experienced bison producers and judges.

Olson expects more than 50 entries in the classes for males and females born in 1993 and 1994. Olson, who is bringing some of his wood bison cross heifer calves, says organizers hope to have somewhere between 50 to 75 entries in the show.

For more information about the show and sale, contact Olson in Fort Assiniboine at (403)584-2482, Tom Meerheimb at (403)785-2649, Ken Boake at (403)347-2156, Louie Banack at (403)388-3911 or Norm Moore at (403)388-3759.

Contact:	*Ken Olson* *(403)584-2482*	*Judd Bunnage* *(403)427-5083*

Bison management course features North Dakota farmer

A well-known North Dakota bison farmer is the keynote speaker at a two-day introductory bison farm management workshop March 23 and 24 at the Edmonton Inn.

Ken Throlson, one of the best known bison farmers in North America and a long-time North Dakota bison farmer, will detail an annual management program for a typical bison farm. Throlson is also a veterinarian.

"The workshop is designed for people who are new to the industry or who are intersted in bison production and want to know more," says Judd Bunnage, Alberta Agriculture bison specialist.

Dr. Throlson's wealth of experience, plus that of other workshop speakers, will provide an excellent opportunity to learn information essential to managing a successful bison farm.

"Originally scheduled for March 22 and 23, the workshop dates were moved to coincide with Alberta's first bison show and sale," he adds. [See separate story this issue.]

Workshop speakers, from the industry and government, will cover a full range of topics. Topics include setting up your farm – fencing and land – for bison, buying breeding stock, transporting bison, production economics, a yearly management calendar, forage species, winter grazing versus feeding, breeding, parasite and disease control, marketing options, and finishing and marketing bison meat for today's consumer.

Space in the courses is limited to the first 30 registrants, so Bunnage encourages people to register early. Registration is $200 plus GST for a farm unit. To register, contact Bunnage in Edmonton at (403)427-5083. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

This the final instalment in a series of three farm management workshops for diversified livestock production. The bison workshop is co-sponsored by Alberta Agriculture and the Peace Country Bison Association.

Contact:	*Judd Bunnage* *(403)427-5083*

Find right fit for Pursuit

It's not a cure-all, but the long-awaited field pea weed control product known as Pursuit can fit into your cropping system says an Alberta Agriculture pulse crop specialist.

"The key is following the label directions and understanding the proper use of the product," says Mark Olson.

When Pursuit came on the market, Prairie farmers were excited. Field peas have become a major Western Canadian crop as they fit nicely into cropping rotations.

However, peas aren't a strong competitor with weeds and historically herbicide choices for weed control were limited. Some weeds could become major problems if they weren't controlled before growing peas. In particular cleavers, chickweed and wild buckwheat could cause both major yield losses and difficulty harvesting.

"Pursuit, when applied at the proper stage of weed growth, does a good job of controlling all these troublesome weeds," says Olson. As well, wild mustard, smartweed, green foxtail, stinkweed, volunteer canola, redroot pigweed and wild oats are on its control list. However, Pursuit doesn't control Canada thistle.

Another plus for Pursuit is crop safety compared to some of the phenoxy herbicides such as MCPA. When incorrectly applied these herbicides can cause crop injury, delayed maturity and major yield losses.

"However," adds Olson, "Pursuit has its limits, too. Soil zone, weed resistance and crop rotation all need to be considered when you consider using this herbicide."

Pursuit is registered only for the Black and Grey Wooded soil zones of the prairies. "The manufacturer didn't seek registration for the Brown soil zone given the product's persistence in dry conditions and the highly variable moisture conditions in this soil zone," explains Olson.

The importance of rotating herbicide families to prevent weed resistance is another factor in selecting Pursuit. It fits into group two, the same family of herbicides as Muster, Ally, Amber Refine extra, Laser DF, products that contain Refine such as Triumph plus and Champion plus, and the no longer registered Glean.

"Whether or not Pursuit is the best choice for field pea weed control also must include a look back at the herbicides that have been used on the particular field," stresses Olson. "Weed resistance is a major concern on the Prairies right now and the importance of rotating herbicide families can't be emphasized enough."

Another consideration is what crop follows field peas in the rotation. Wheat, barley, alfalfa and field peas can be grown the year following the use of Pursuit. However, oats, canola, flax and sugar beets can't. "Farmers who don't pick up on this point will be in for a nasty surprise," notes Olson.

"The manufacturer suggests a bioassay before growing any crop not listed on the label, or growing a test strip to maturity before any commercial size production," he adds.

For more information on field pea production, contact Olson in Olds at (403)556-4220 or your local Alberta Agriculture district office to be put in touch with your nearest crop specialist Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator

Contact   *Mark Olson*
(403)556-4220

El Nino and a warm, dry January

January temperatures were above normal and precipitation was well below normal in Alberta and an *El Nino* was likely responsible says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

An *El Nino* event – warm episode conditions – starts in tropical Pacific waters. "What we we saw in January is typical of what we can expect when there is an *El Nino*," says Peter Dzikowski. "Generally *El Nino* causes above normal temperatures in Western Canada during winter months."

Alberta's average monthly temperature in January was -11.0°C, 2.3 degrees above the 1961 to 1990 normal monthly average. The average January precipitation of 4.6 mm was 18.7 mm below the 1961 to 1990 average for the month. Temperature and precipitation averages are based on data recorded at 44 Environment Canada climate stations across the province.

January began with cold temperatures in the south, central and Peace regions. Cloud and snow dominated the province during the second week of January. Then, a flow of warm Pacific air overriding a colder layer of air produced cloud and snowy conditions in central regions. Sunshine returned to Alberta the third week of January with seasonal temperatures.

"Warm mild Pacific air, *El Nino*, dominated the province for the remainder of the month bringing well above normal temperatures," says Dzikowski. "In southern Alberta, temperatures even reached the low teens," he adds.

Average temperatures for the month of January ranged from near normal to 6.6 degrees above normal. Pincher Creek reported -3.9°C, the warmest monthly average in Alberta, and 3.7 degrees above normal.

Grande Prairie and High Level tied for the coldest monthly average temperature at -15.3°C, respectively 0.2 and 6.2 degrees above normal. Fort McMurray reported -13.3°C, 6.6 degrees warmer than its long-term average for January.

All Alberta locations received precipitation amounts much below normal notes Dzikowski. As well, several locations in central and southern Alberta reported no precipitation for the second month in a row.

"Most of the province reported less than 10 mm, varying from between zero to 60 per cent of normal," he adds. "In agricultural

Cont'd on page 4

areas, Lloydminster reported the most precipitation, 14.6 mm. But that's only 63 per cent of its January normal of 23.2 mm."

For more information, contact Peter Dzikowski in Edmonton at 422-4385.

Contact: Peter Dzikowski
(403)422-4385

AgVenture into new opportunities

New Opportunities in Agriculture will make its debut March 16 and 17 at Medicine Hat's *AgVenture Trade Show and Pro Rodeo '95*.

Planning for success is the theme of the conference's first day. The second day gives participants a chance to look at one of three specific areas of opportunity – rural home-based business, agri-food processing and agricultural diversification.

Brenda Lea MacPhail is the conference organizer. The Alberta Agriculture rural development specialist in Medicine Hat is also a director of the local Chamber of Commerce. She proposed the AgVenture trade show and the conference. The project is partially funded by the Canada/Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI).

"Adding value to agriculture isn't just something big commercial enterprizes are doing. Rural Albertans are looking at value-adding business opportunities. They want to be successful, so they want information to give them a firm base to build on," says MacPhail.

Day one focuses on particular business skills and tools she adds. "Our opening speaker describes a business plan, why you need one, how it should be written and who should put it together."

Also on day one's agenda are: an insight into marketing plans, using financial statements for decision-making and a testimonial to starting small and thinking big. The latter speaker is Ben Sawatsky who won the 1994 Alberta Business Award of Distinction and the Milner Fennerty Pinnacle Award.

Sawatsky started Spruceland Millworks in 1983 with a personal investment of just over $1,100, $5,000 of borrowed money and seven employees. Now his family-business has 160 employees and 1994 sales approached $60 million.

"On day two, participants can choose between one of three specific AgVenture areas," says MacPhail.

Home-based business topics include sources of financing, the home-based business network association and a local home-based business woman shares her experience.

Deer, elk, bison, boer goats, herbs, spices, essential oils and flowers are all on the agricultural diversification agenda.

Trends in agri-food processing, researching the market place, developing your product and using a broker are among topics for the agri-food processing session. Tom Droog of SPITZ's sunflower seed fame and Don Stenson of Something Special Deli Foods will tell how "they've been there and done that".

The conference registration deadline is March 9. The conference cost is $64.20 per person. The fee includes GST, materials, lunches and coffee breaks.

Registration forms are available from southern region Alberta Agriculture district offices.

Contact: Brenda Lea MacPhail
(403)529-3616

MAP'95 in tune with industry needs

Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP'95) conference participants rated the 17th annual farm management conference as both informative and applicable to their farm businesses.

"One of our long-term goals for the conference is moving beyond supplying information, to providing information MAP participants can apply at the farm level. Evaluations from this year's conference show we're moving well in that direction," says Judy Shipley-Smith, chair of the MAP'95 planning committee.

For example, four of the 1995 conference sessions rated highly as both informative and applicable. Capital gains savvy and balancing work and family pulled in high ratings on both counts. So did two of the plenary sessions – emerging trends in global agriculture and breaking the terror barrier to use the information you gain at a conference once you get home.

"If you weren't at the conference, you can still find out what those speakers had to say," she notes. The three plenary sessions were all video taped. The three tapes are available as a package for $25. To order, or for more information, call the MAP hotline at 1-800-387-6030.

Farmer-to-farmer panels are appearing more on MAP conference agendas. "With strong feedback that participants like to hear from their peers, these panels will continue," says Shipley-Smith.

Shipley-Smith says organizers are also pleased with participant response to '95 conference. An overwhelming 98 per cent of evaluation respondents said they'd come again.

"One reason may be MAP's reputation for high quality speakers and an overall feeling participants have of having their expectations met or exceeded," she adds. Some 65 per cent said the quality of speakers met their expectations and 31 per cent said they exceeded their expectations.

The '95 conference also rated well compared to previous MAP conferences. Selection of topics and past reputation are the top two reasons participants gave for why they attended MAP'95

"Those evaluation categories are really a pat on the back to the people who put the conference together," she says. "That includes organizers and sponsors." [See separate story this issue.]

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The opening evening Alberta Food experience also got a rave review with 51 per cent of participants rating it as above their expectations. "This is excellent exposure for Alberta processors and obviously an eye-opener for conference participants," notes Shipley-Smith.

"We're also reaching new people," she says. "Fully half of this year's conference goers were at their first MAP conference."

Participants can choose to attend the whole conference or come for specific days. Day one attracted 363 registrants. Day two had the highest total – 385. The final day – a short day – brought out 338 participants.

Contact: *Judy Shipley-Smith* *Doug Barlund*
(403)948-8505 *(403)556-4245*

Sponsors make MAP happen

Recipe for a successful annual conference: organizers dedicated to detail, a program that instructs and delights its audience, speakers who deliver what the publicity promises and sponsors who make it all possible.

While this recipe could apply to many events, it's particularly true for Alberta's annual farm management conference, Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP). Over the years, MAP conferences have acquired a reputation for high quality speakers who provide useful information.

MAP'95, earlier in February, was the 17th annual version. It attracted an average of over 360 people each of its three days. In their evaluations 1995 participants again gave the conference top marks. [See separate story this issue.]

One of the keys – or ingredients in the recipe – is continuing sponsor support. MAP'95 had over 30 sponsors. "Our sponsors really make a difference," says Judy Shipley-Smith, chair of the '95 conference's planning committee.

The conference is co-hosted by Alberta Agriculture and Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC). At the top of the backers' list is Alberta Pool, a conference partner.

"One of the reasons the Pool supports MAP is that it's unique," says the Pool's Ross Halseth. "It's the only agricultural conference of its type and magnitude in the province."

At the next sponsorship level were conference sponsors RDTV, 790 CFCW Radio and UFA. All played a part in conference promotion.

On the sponsor contributor level were the Alberta Timothy Group, the Bank of Montreal, CIBC, Co-operators Insurance/Financial Services, the Farm Credit Corporation, KenAgra Management Services, Olds College, Royal Bank, The Legacy Group, TransAlta Utilities, Westco Fertilizers and the Western Producer.

Supporters included AGT Mobility, the Alberta Barley Commission, the Alberta Canola Commission, Alberta Treasury Branches, the Bank of Nova Scotia, Big Rock Brewery, Centra Gas, Cominco Fertilizers, the Communications Group, Dairyworld, Esso Petroleum, Monsanto Canada, the Toronto Dominion Bank and United Grain Growers.

Conference sponsors provided a variety of things including meals, coffee breaks, a reception, entertainment, door prizes and other elements of what makes a successful conference says Shipley-Smith

Contact: *Judy Shipley-Smith* *Jean Thompson*
(403)948-8505 *(403)679-1352*

MAP videos and outlooks available

Even if you couldn't attend Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP'95), you can still benefit from some of its expert speakers.

Two different products are available. One is a compilation of the conference's outlook sessions. The other is a video series featuring the three conference plenary speakers.

Speciality crops, crops, livestock, international trade and Canadian financial outlooks are included in the *MAP'95 Outlook Proceedings* binder. The binder costs $25.

"We also had the three plenary sessions video taped. Conference evaluations show that participants believed they were both informative and could be applied on their own farm operations," notes Doug Barlund, an Alberta Agriculture management specialist and a member of the MAP program committee. The three videos are priced at $25.

Emerging trends in global agriculture was the first of the plenary topics. Speaker Dick Dawson is a former vice president of Cargill Canada.

Day two's plenary session was handled by Garnet Altwasser, co-founder of Lakeside Farm Industries of Brooks. His "beefing up your markets" session covered marketing strategies.

The final plenary session was the conference wrap-up. Gordon College provided advice on "breaking the terror barrier". College, an accomplished and entertaining speaker, discussed reshaping attitude so people can apply new found knowledge, from a conference such as MAP, to their current business strategy.

To order the outlook proceedings or the videos, send a cheque (includes GST) made payable to AFSC MAP'95 to Alberta Agriculture, Coronation District Office, Box 160, Coronation, Alberta, T0C 1C0.

"Since both cost the same amount, please say whether your cheque is for the outlook proceedings or the videos," adds Barlund.

For more information call the MAP hotline at 1-800-387-6030.

Contact: *Doug Barlund*
(403)556-4245

New financial technology at AG-COMPUFAIR March 8

Farm managers can see new financial computer technology information at *AG-COMPUFAIR* March 8 at Drumheller's Stampede Barn.

The one-day computer technology learning fair features company displays as well as complimentary speaker sessions.

The fair will feature a wide range of displays including farm financial management says organizing committee member Rollie Davies. Access to new financial computer technology will benefit farm managers adds the Alberta Agriculture farm management specialist. "Using this type of technology, farm managers will be able to remain competitive and increase profitability in a changing marketplace."

Complimentary speaker sessions will also be informative and interesting. Jerome Martin, of the University of Alberta's extension faculty, speaks at 1:30 and 4:30. His topic is using Internet from an agricultural perspective.

Lorene Cunningham will discuss how to select and use accounting software at 10:30 a.m. The noon speaker is Murray Green, an Alberta Agriculture engineer. His topic is global positioning. This system provides accurate locations of equipment working in a field, a method of mapping field information and control of fertilizer inputs.

At 3 p.m. Bruce Waldie will demonstrate FBMInet, a national agricultural bulletin board. Waldie is provincial computer applications specialist based at Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.

In the evening, Olds College will demonstrate one-line education. With shrinking budgets and growing demand, this is another way to deliver education.

Registration for *AG-COMPUFAIR* is $10 before February 28 and $15 after that date. You can also register at the door.

For more information, call Ellen Fromach in Three Hills at (403)443-8525. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Ellen Frombach* *(403)443-8525* *Joan MacFarlane* *(403)948-2624*

Local Opportunity Bonds announced

Regulations have been passed to allow the provincial government to accept proposals for three pilot projects using Alberta Local Opportunity Bonds.

Local Opportunity Bonds are a way for rural communities to get directly involved in funding new or expanding small businesses in their area. The bond concept is part of the government's economic development strategy. Bonds can be issued by the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) after community and investor support is in place.

The idea was first suggested during the Local Development Initiative process in 1990. This involved more than 20 public forums across Alberta. Nearly 800 community leaders from more than 250 Alberta communities voiced their views and ideas in that process. The concept was confirmed in Premier Ralph Klein's *Seizing Opportunities* paper in 1993.

"These bonds offer rural communities a way to influence their economic future," says Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister, who made the bond annoucement. "It keeps economic development at the grass roots community level, where it belongs.

"I encourage rural communities to identify appropriate investment opportunities, which may include additional value-added processing of Alberta products, or tourism, forestry or service sector initiatives," he adds.

Bond purchasers will receive a promise from AFSC to repay a portion of the principal in the event of a business failure, and is still dependent on the level of private equity in the business. The promise to pay will be 80 per cent, where equity in the business is 25 per cent, rising to 100 per cent where equity in the business is 35 per cent or more.

Income earned from the bond will depend upon the success of the project, and will not be guaranteed by AFSC.

The maximum bond issue will be $1 million, and individual bond purchasers can subscribe for a maximum of 10% of a bond series. A Risk Contingency Fund will be set up, with contributions coming from fees charged to the projects.

The Local Opportunity Bond program is an investment tool and not a loan guarantee. Bonds enable the businesses to negotiate more favorable repayment rates than might otherwise be available. Private investors will be investing their own money, taking risk and evaluating the investment.

The three pilot projects will be selected from applications submitted to AFSC. "The pilot projects will give us the information we need to develop a full-fledged program, while also minimizing the risk," says Paszkowski.

More information and guidelines are available from AFSC or any Alberta Agriculture rural development specialist.

Contact: *Bob Splane – President and Managing Director AFSC*
(403)679-1302
Dwight Dibben or Brian Hlus –
Executive assistants to the minister
(403)427-2137

Agri-News briefs

Minister proclaims World Vision Famine Week in Alberta

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's minister Walter Paszkowski encourages young Albertans to support the *World Vision 30 Hour Famine Week* this week. The national famine dates are February 24 and 25. Over the last six years, thousands of young Canadians have gone without food for 30 hours. The money they raised for World Vision has been used to provide food, shelter and medicine for hungry and poor children around the world. "We are fortunate in Alberta and Canada – we live in a land of plenty. Participating in this program emphasizes our bounty and also our ability to help the hungry," says Paszkowski. For more information on the *30 Hour Famine Week*, contact national director Carol Froom at 1-800-387-8080.

Hulless barley as feed information seminars in March

Hulless barley may be the new feedgrain for all livestock sectors in the '90s and beyond. The Alberta Barley Commission has planned a series of informational seminars about hulless barley as feed. The one-day seminars are March 6 in Lethbridge, March 7 in Red Deer, March 8 in Westlock and March 9 in Grande Prairie. The awareness seminars also provide an opportunity for producers to ask experts questions about hulless barley. Economic and nutritional studies have shown hulless barley as superior to hulled barley, wheat and corn in both swine and poultry rations. It also displays potential for beef cattle and may fill the high energy requirements of dairy cows. Those studies as well as market opportunities for hulless barley, hulless barley production and a feeder, research and industry panel are part of each seminar. The registration fee is $25. Pre-registration is required to make meal arrangements. Call the Alberta Barley Commission at 1-800-265-9111.

March 15 deadline for Pork Congress awards

The nomination deadline for the Alberta Pork Congress awards of excellence is March 15. Award categories are progressive pork producer, herdsman of the year and pork industry leadership. Nomination forms are available from the Alberta Pork Congress office at #301, 4920-51 Street, Red Deer, Alberta, T4N 6K8 or fax (403)340-4896.

REA contract policy meetings through March

Rural Electrification Association (REA) spring district meetings will discuss contract renewals with utility companies. These meetings, between March 8 and March 30, are an opportunity for all REAs to have final input into changes. The meetings are as follows: March 8, Hanna Provincial Building; March 9, Taber Heritage Inn; March 10, Airdrie Agricultural Centre; March 14 Vermilion Provincial Building; March 15, Vegreville Homesteader Inn; March 16, Camrose Senior Centre; March 17, Red Deer Provincial Building; March 27, Stony Plain Provincial Building; March 28, Westlock Legion Hall; March 29, Grande Prairie; and, March 30, Manning Elks Hall. All meetings begin at 9:30 a.m. except Vermilion's where the start time is 1 p.m. For more information contact the Alberta Federation of REAs at (403)451-7691.

Internet and agriculture courses at U of A

Three more courses specifically for people in the agriculture industry to learn how to cruise the Internet are being offered by the University of Alberta's extension faculty. The one-day courses are scheduled for March 10 and March 24 in Edmonton. The third course is at the University of Lethbridge on March 17. Hands-on practice is included. The course discusses what Internet is, how to access and navigate the net, e-mail and news services, access to remote data bases and how to find information quickly. Enrolment is limited to 20 people per course. The registration deadline is March 3. For more information or to register, call Sheila Greenberg at (403)492-3029.

IVMAA seminar and trade show March 15-17

The Industrial Vegetation Management Association of Alberta (IVMAA) will hold its 1995 seminar and trade show March 15 through 17 at the Rimrock Hotel in Banff. Seminar topics include corporate re-engineering, developing safety programs to keep you in business, encouraging productivity through career development, partnerships and strategic alliances, reclaiming Mount St. Helen's, the great flood of 1993 and the third edition of the IVMAA's industry standards and good practices for vegetation management. For more information, contact Cari Chernichen at (403)244-4095.

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Conservation workshop this week in Red Deer

The 1995 provincial conservation workshop and 17th annual Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) annual meeting runs February 23 through 25 at the Westerner Park in Red Deer. For the first time the workshop is being held in conjunction with the Westerner's *Farm Progress Days*. The workshop theme is opportunities and challenges in sustainable agriculture. It features plenary and concurrent sessions on February 23 and 24. The final day is *Direct Seeding Saturday*. As well, the Alberta Forage Council will hold its annual meeting February 24. Full workshop and daily rates are available. For more information contact Peter Gamache in Edmonton at (403)422-4385 or Russ Evans in Calgary at (403)936-5306.

Opportunity '95 March 3 & 4 in Red Deer

The third annual conference and exposition for home-based business and entrepreneurial management development runs March 3 and 4 in Red Deer. Opportunity '95 features practical information and hands-on management techniques for both aspiring entrepreneurs and practicing home-based business people. Complete conference and daily rates are available. For more information, contact Kathy Christie at the Centre for Business Development in Red Deer at (403)342-2056 or fax (403)347-6980.

AGRI-NEWS

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National Farm Safety Week moves to March

A Canadian tradition will change next month as *National Farm Safety Week* moves to March 7 through 13 from its long-time spot in late July.

The national awareness week's new date coincides with a new approach to farm safety promotion across Canada. Roots of the change are in the formation of the Canadian Coalition for Agricultural Safety and Rural Health.

The coalition establishes firm links between farm, farm safety, safety and health organizations across Canada. The coalition's objective is to promote farm safety and rural health through national co-operation and centres of excellence. Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program is responsible for promotion and will co-ordinate activities through the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and other agencies and organizations across Canada. [See separate story this issue.]

One of the first moves was the change to a spring awareness week. "It was a strategic move," says Solomon Kyeremanteng, manager of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program. "We hope to build momentum throughout the year from a March National Farm Safety Week."

The 1995 campaign theme is *Take the Challenge* and is directed at rural media outlets. [See separate story for campaign details.] "Media, like any other business, depends on its local community. Farm safety affects communities in many ways. There's also a certain responsibility in media's mandate to inform and educate the public," he says.

Contact: *Solomon Kyeremanteng* *(403)427-2171*
Jacqueline Galloway *(403)427-2171*

Go ahead, take the farm safety challenge

Rural media is the target of *Take the Challenge*, the first national farm safety promotion.

The campaign also kicks-off new timing for National Farm Safety Week, March 7 through 13. Traditionally the awareness week was held in late July before farmers started harvest.

"While farm safety is a year-round concern, the week's timing was changed to give safety promotion efforts time to build throughout the year starting with the spring when farmers begin seeding new

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

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crops," says Solomon Kyeremanteng, manager of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program.

The challenge theme echoes that momentum. Media outlets will receive updated information cards that fit into a desk-top display box made by folding the campaign package together.

"The media was chosen as the campaign target because of the role it plays in communities," says Kyeremanteng. "Their challenge is to promote health and safety to farm families starting with National Farm Safety Week and throughout the year. The objective is media commitment."

The campaign package explains farm accidents aren't just devastating to farm families and farm businesses, but that they affect the entire community. Agriculture supplies nearly two million jobs in Canada and accounts for 15 per cent of all national employment. Farm business and family supplies are bought in local communities. Farm accidents put a strain on the health care system.

"The bottom line is that healthy farms and a thriving agriculture industry means a better life for all of us," says Kyeremanteng.

The challenge package also points out agriculture is one of Canada's most hazardous industries. On average, two people are killed every week and people receive disabling injuries every day.

"There are many potential hazards on the farm from the equipment and materials farmers work with such as machinery, pesticides and large animals. Farm children routinely work and play on the worksite and the family home is there, too. That makes safety both more complicated and more important," he says.

This first campaign is the foundation for future national promotions. Media outlets will also receive additional resource cards from time to time.

"These cards could have seasonal messages, updates on provincial programs and other useful information for farm safety coverage," says campaign designer Jacqueline Galloway, an Alberta Agriculture farm safety consultant.

Campaign sponsors are the Canadian Coalition for Agriculture Safety and Rural Health, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the Canada Safety Council, John Deere Ltd., Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and provincial farm safety organizations across Canada.

Contact:	*Solomon Kyeremanteng*	*Jacqueline Galloway*
	(403)427-2171	*(403)427-2171*

Rural editors and news directors: If you didn't receive a *Take the Challenge* package, please call the farm safety office at (403)427-2171.

Alberta farm safety team leads national promotion

Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program manager went to Toronto last fall to show a special Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) workshop how Alberta had cost-effectively used social marketing concepts to promote farm safety. When Solomon Kyeremanteng left, his program team had been named to lead promotional efforts of the National Coalition for Agricultural Safety and Rural Health.

Better promotion of agricultural safety and health was one reason the coalition was established says Kyeremanteng, who was a member of the coalition's steering committee and is now a member of the coalition's board of directors.

Originally, the CFA had planned to spearhead national promotions. Kyeremanteng was invited by the CFA to its special promotions workshop. After his presentation and a review of the Alberta program's accomplishments and innovations, Alberta was offered the opportunity to lead national promotions.

"We've become a centre of excellence," explains Kyeremanteng. The University of Saskatchewan's Centre for Agricultural Medicine is the research centre, Manitoba is responsible for national standards and Ontario is the centralized resource headquarters.

In February 1994, as a member of the national coalition's steering committee, Kyeremanteng made a presentation to the CFA. "I told them they needed to change their thinking away from traditional promotional materials," he says. "That the pamphlet, brochure and workshop aren't as effective as more innovative and multi-media approaches."

He reinforced those ideas at the CFA's special workshop. Kyeremanteng's review of Alberta successful promotions, was followed by an expert speaker discussing social marketing. "What workshop participants saw was that social marketing concepts could be used cost effectively," he says.

Kyeremanteng showed farm safety television commercials; television coverage of the 1994 spring postcard campaign launch and award presentations; a binder full of newspaper clippings on the launch and local winners; and, the CBC-produced promotion video for the teen *The Way WE See It* campaign plus the launch clip from the CBC Alberta News.

A John Deere representative also spoke and told the workshop why her company has continued its involvement with Alberta farm safety promotions from a sponsor's perspective: simple concepts, excellent responses, tremendous publicity and always coming in under budget.

Kyeremanteng gives credit for the farm safety program's success to the program's staff plus support of the department, past ministers and current minister, Walter Paszkowski. "Without support from the top, we couldn't have done as much and gone as far as we have," he says.

Cont'd on page 3

Alberta's first challenge was putting together a promotion package for National Farm Safety Week. Time lines were tight because the week was moved from late July to early March.

"There were a lot of differences and demands compared to a provincial promotion campaign," says Jacqueline Galloway, Alberta Agriculture farm safety consultant. "Written material and artwork had to reflect the diversity of farms across Canada, plus the kit had to be bilingual."

Contact: *Solomon Kyeremanteng* *(403)427-2171*
Jacqueline Galloway *(403)427-2171*

Food processing, development on display at Centre's open house

Alberta Agriculture's *Food Processing and Development Centre* in Leduc will be celebrating Agriculture Week with an open house on March 10.

"Our doors will open to the public at 4 p.m. and offer the public an opportunity to see the ways the centre has, and can, help Alberta's agri-food processing companies," says Ron Pettitt, head of the centre.

Guided tours will be available. The centre includes a fully equipped pilot plant, a product development and analytical laboratory, a test kitchen and a sensory evaluation room.

Plus visitors can browse through displays about the centre's different processes and services. There will also be displays detailing the work of associated branches in Alberta Agriculture including the food quality and industry development branch.

"Some equipment will be running to give visitors a sense of some of our operations. For example, the FNA FOODS fibrimex operation," says Pettitt. Other equipment on display an extruder, a multi-vac for packaging, a batter/breading line and an ultrafiltration system.

Products the centre helped to develop will also be on display. This includes microwave fries, honey mustard, ice cream cones, taco nuggets, English trifle and lasagna.

The centre opened in December 1984. Its staff includes 11 food scientists and three technologists. Staff expertise includes meat science, baked goods, beverages, labelling, engineering, dairy science, cereal science, extrusion technology, packaging and process control.

"Our role is supporting product development for the multi-billion dollar food processing industry. It's leadership through partnership," says Pettitt. "Development work here covers a wide range of services. Recently, interim processing and high multiple-value products have been on our agenda."

The centre's address is 6309-45 Street in Leduc. For more information about the March 10 open house, call (403)986-4893

Contact: *Ron Pettitt* *(403)986-4793*
Jacqueline Gelinas *(403)986-47935*

ACTS' awards recognize conservation leaders

Central Alberta carried off all the honors in the 1995 Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) and Western Producer *Conservation Awards*.

Both the farm family, Wilson Farms of Rosedale, and conservation group, the Delia Conservation 2000 Club, were claimed by Drumheller area farmers. The industry award went to Dianne Finstad of RDTV's *This Business of Farming*.

The Keith Wilson family of Rosedale are the 1995 Conservation Farm Family. Keith Wilson is the fourth generation to farm in the Verdant Valley area east of Drumheller. He and his father Dale have been farming together since 1982. They crop about 4,000 acres plus operate a 250-head commercial cow-calf herd.

The Wilsons have always direct seeded their heavy soils, moving from discers to air seeders. They've continuously cropped some of their land for more than 20 years. In the last five years they've moved more seriously into zero-till says Keith.

Their long-term conservation goals are to maintain and improve soil productivity using available technology. Their plan is based on minimum to zero-till continuous cropping, and hope to enter the 21st century by using a high-tech ground positioning system.

Wilson's reaction to the award wasn't so much surprise as appreciation. "The neighbors think we're crazy. Having our peers think we're doing something right is different."

Barry Mason is also the fourth generation on his family's farm near Delia. He and his father Albert founded the Delia Conservation 2000 Club, the 1995 Group Conservation Award winner.

The club got its start three years ago in 1992. The original membership was a dozen, and currently the club has 22 members. "The club has certainly made a difference to the members," says Albert. All use some form of conservation farming. None had direct seeding equipment before the club was formed, now 10 members do.

Club members using conservation practices have influenced the local community say both of the Masons. The Delia Conservation 2000 club has sparked local interest as neighbors see the benefits of conservation practices in club members' fields.

"We can definitely see less summerfallowing," says Barry. As well, he adds, more acres are sprayed instead of tilled for weed control, there's more straight cut combining and more talk about conservation equipment.

Cont'd on page 4

Recently the club hosted nearly 50 people at a direct seeding workshop. It has also hosted a dinner theatre and a dinner with guest speaker. Each event attracted over 100 people.

Changes in farm practices may be slower outside the club, says Barry, but there's some satisfaction for club members to see "it's maybe faster than without the club".

Finstad, *This Business of Farming* and RDTV join a select group as winners of the 1995 Industry Soil Conservation Award. The first winner was Ray Dyken of Victory Equipment (New Noble) for the Victory-Seed-o-Vator. Alberta Pool won the 1993 award for the Conservation 2000 program. Monsanto Canada received the award last year.

"This award recognizes industry partners for their efforts to promote and advance the adoption of conservation farming technology," says Russ Evans, ACTS' executive manager. "We appreciate Dianne's commitment to inform *This Business of Farming's* audience about conservation activities and RDTV's support of both the program and Dianne."

This Business of Farming includes a monthly conservation segement plus issues and events as they occur. Finstad says she's seen conservation farming change from a "new idea" to become something farmers see as something everyone needs to be doing.

Award presentations were made during the provincial conservation workshop and 17th annual ACTS annual meeting in Red Deer last week (February 23 through 25).

Contact: *Russ Evans*
(403)936-5306

GRIP ends in Alberta

Alberta has given official notice to the federal agriculture minister the province is withdrawing from the Gross Revenue Insurance Plan (GRIP).

The province's farmers will now have until April 30, 1995, to opt out of GRIP without penalty.

GRIP, introduced in 1991 to provide revenue protection for farmers, is funded by producers and the federal and provincial governments. Payments to farmers are determined by calculating producer yield, commodity price and the amount of acreage seeded.

"Farmers have said they want out of GRIP, and we have listened," says Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister. "They prefer a program that reduces the threat of trade action and doesn't influence their decisions on what to grow.

"GRIP no longer fulfills the needs of Alberta farmers," adds Paszkowski. "It is time to move forward with our business plan, which calls for a new direction for safety nets in Alberta. Our new approach must be compatible with international trade agreements, such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)." GRIP is unacceptable because payments are tied to commodity prices.

"Crop insurance will play a stronger role in risk management for Alberta farmers," says Paszkowski. "As in the past, farmers' opinions will be vital in the future design of the program." Alberta Farmers will be involved as the safety net discussions continue throughout the industry he adds.

To exit the plan, provinces are required by the GRIP agreement to provide a two-year written notification to the federal government. Previously, producers could exit GRIP only if they repaid the net benefits they received, or provided three years' written notice. Details of this exit offer will be mailed to farmers in the next two weeks.

Contact: *Bob Splane, AFSC president and managing director*
(403)679-1302
Brian Hlus/Dwight Dibben,
Executive assistants to the minister
427-2137

New Opportunities has answer for your questions

If you're someone contemplating a new business direction, the *New Opportunities in Agriculture* conference could be the catalyst to setting off in that direction.

The two-day conference is March 16 and 17 at the same time as the *AgVenture Trade Show and Pro Rodeo'95* at the Medicine Hat Stampede Grounds.

"New Opportunities is for people at two stages, those thinking about a new business or those who want to add to their business and business skills," says Brenda Lea MacPhail, the conference organizer and Alberta Agriculture rural development specialist in Medicine Hat.

"The first category includes people who want to add income to their existing operation, who currently run or want to start a home-based business, who are interested in diversifying their operation or who want to know more about the agri-food processing industry," she adds.

The conference is also for people who want to learn how to add value to a product they already produce or more specific business skills including creating a successful business plan, enhancing marketing strategies through a marketing plan and learning how to use partial budgeting as a tool to direct business expansion.

Planning for success is the theme of the conference's first day. It focuses on particular business skills and tools. Kim Pasula, the opening speaker and facilitator, will describe a business plan, why a business needs one, how it should be written and who should put it together.

Also on day one's agenda are: an insight into marketing plans, using financial statements for decision-making and a testimonial to starting small and thinking big by Ben Sawatsky, award winning small businessman.

Cont'd on page 5

"On day two, participants can choose a more specific area of opportunity," notes MacPhail. Their choices are home-based business, agricultural diversification and agri-food processing.

Home-based business topics include sources of financing and the home-based business network association.

Deer, elk, bison, boer goats, herbs, spices, essential oils and flowers are all on the agricultural diversification agenda.

Trends in agri-food processing, researching the market place, developing your product and using a broker are among topics for the agri-food processing session. Tom Droog of SPITZ's sunflower seed fame and Don Stenson of Something Special Deli Foods will tell how "they've been there and done that".

The conference registration deadline is March 9. The conference cost is $64.20 per person. The fee includes GST, materials, lunches and coffee breaks.

Registration forms are available from southern region Alberta Agriculture district offices.

Contact: Brenda Lea MacPhail
(403)529-3616

Right mix to continue at Horse Breeders and Owners conference

The 1995 *Horse Breeders and Owners Conference* boasted standing room only for people who are used to having a seat.

"We had record attendance. More than 500 horse enthusiasts turned out," says Bob Coleman Alberta Agriculture's provincial horse specialist.

"The interest shows why this conference is one of the most significant educational programs for the horse industry in Canada," he adds.

Coleman says the '95 conference line-up included more sessions for riders. "This mix was really well received and we plan to continue to have expert speakers covering the all aspects of the industry."

Both '95 conference speakers and participants rated each other highly. "Something we take pride in is getting speakers who are tremendous communicators. That happened again this year. As well, the speakers told us they were impressed with the participants' willingness to learn, that people really came to learn," says Coleman.

Eight speakers are already confirmed for the 1996 conference. It will be held January 12 through 14 at the Capri Centre in Red Deer.

"One of our confirmed speakers is Dr. Bruce Ghan of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon who had a schedule conflict this year," notes Coleman. Ghan's expertise is how the horse sees.

An equine nutritionist from the University of Kentucky will also share her expertise at the '96 conference. "Dr. Laurie Lawrence's topic is water and electrolytes. This is a topic of interest with the 1996 Olympics in the very humid climate of Atlanta," says Coleman

Behavior of wild horses is the speciality of Joel Berger. Berger, a professor from Utah, studies wild horses

For more information on the *1996 Horse Owners and Breeders Conference*, contact Coleman in Edmonton at (403)427-8906 or Les Burwash in Airdrie at (403)948-8532

Contact: Bob Coleman (403)427-8906

AAEAC tackles safe chemical handling

Safety and convenient use are two issues that concern farmers about the wide-range of chemical containers and transfer systems available on the market.

The Alberta Agricultural Engineering Advisory Committee (AAEAC) has identified this issue as a research priority notes AAEAC co-chair Rick Atkins. "The AAEAC's producer representatives brought up the issue. They say producers from one corner of the province to the other face the same problems," says Atkins, head of Alberta Agriculture's engineering services branch.

"Each chemical manufacturer has a different chemical packaging and formulation medium for nearly every one of their products. The trend towards mini-bulk systems further complicates the issue," says Frank Vos. Vos, a Wrentham area farmer, is an AAEAC producer representative who also serves as a cereals and oilseeds research committee member for the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute (AARI).

Each system has a different container, different connectors, different transfer systems and no provision for rinsing. "The result is no compatibility between systems, no consistency in how chemicals can be added to the sprayer and a potential safety hazard to both the operator and the environment," says Mills Anderson, another AAEAC producer representative, who farms near Rycroft.

Anderson, past regional Unifarm director, notes Unifarm added the chemical standardization issue to its list of standing policy objectives. "The variability of chemical container types needs to be rectified," he stresses.

Several standards and industry associations have looked at the issue. To date, users have seen very little progress says Atkins. "The AAEAC will continue to work with the various standards and industry associations to help resolve this issue," he adds. "Our goal is ease farmer frustration, remove inconvenience, minimize extra costs and add to the safety of spraying."

For more information about the AAEAC and its work, contact chair Russ Neilson, Olds College trades and technology department, at (403)556-8296 or Atkins in Lethbridge at (403)329-1212.

Contact: Rick Atkins Russ Neilson
(403)329-1212 (403)556-8296

Agri-News briefs

Wild boar seminar February 28

An afternoon seminar on raising wild boar for the export market will be held at the Mayerthorpe Legion Hall on February 28. The seminar is designed to emphasize the need for good breeding stock, management and quality control for the export market. Seminar topics include general management, defining terms, identifying full-blood breeding stock, meat color requirements in the international market and a market review. Speakers include Al Choquer of Agriculture Canada's market and industry services branch as well as directors of the Western Canadian Wild Boar Association. A $15 fee covers lunch and a producer's manual. For more information contact the Wild Boar Federation of Canada in Saskatoon at (306)664-8758.

CAP celebrates its 10th birthday during Ag Week

The Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP) will celebrate its 10th birthday during Agriculture Week in Alberta March 6 through 11. This year about 650 volunteers will tell the Alberta agriculture story to approximately 26,000 grade four students in over 1,100 classrooms. CAP was formed in 1985 by a group of agricultural organizations. Both the provincial agriculture and education ministers endorse the program. "It's exciting to be associated with such an enthusiastic group of people who form the CAP committee," says Judy Fenton, CAP '95's chair. "This year they've outdone themselves by revamping all of the games, activities and artwork of the program materials. We're confident that both our volunteers and the students will be thrilled with the hands-on material provided for CAP'95." CAP is supported by the Alberta Cattle Commission, the Alberta Barley Commission, the Alberta Canola Producers Commission, the Alberta Chicken Producers Board, the Alberta Egg Producers' Board, the Alberta Fresh Vegetables Marketing Board, the Alberta Milk Producers' Society, the Alberta Pork Producers Development Corporation, the Alberta Pulse Growers Commission, the Alberta Sheep and Wool Commission, the Alberta Sugar Beet Growers Marketing Board, Alberta Women in Support of Agriculture, the Alberta Women's Institutes and the Beef Education Association. For more information, call Fenton in Irma at (403)754-2257 or Joanne Lemke in Calgary at (403)275-4400.

Smoky River trade show March 17-19

The *Smoky River Agricultural Trade Show* runs March 17 through 19 in Falher. Organized and co-ordinated by the Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association (SARDA), the show has three venues. They are Falher's arena, curling rink and Knights of Columbus Hall. For more information, contact Roch Bremond at (403)837-2211.

Decision-making and ethics conference proceedings available

Proceedings from an international conference on agricultural ethics are now available from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. The college hosted the *Decision Making and Agriculture: The Role of Ethics* conference in January 1994. The proceedings include the keynote address and presentations on animal welfare, agricultural research, agricultural policy and an ethical framework for agriculture. Cost for the over 280-page book is $25 pre-paid (includes postage and handling). Make the cheque or money order payable to Nova Scotia Agricultural College, and note the title *Decision Making and Agriculture: The Role of Ethics, Proceedings of an International Conference on Agricultural Ethics* and ISBN 1-55174-301-9. Send to the Rural Research Centre, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Box 550, Truro, Nova Scotia, B2N 5E3. For more information, call (902)893-6593 or fax (902)897-9399.

Farm management videos available for loan

Two Canadian Farm Business Management Council video productions are now available for loan from Alberta Agriculture's central multi-media library in Edmonton. *Hiring the Right Person for Your Farm* and *Managing People on Youw Farm* are both 20 minutes long. The first asks farm managers to think about what they want an employee to do and then describes how to find the best person for that job. The second takes a light-hearted look at interpersonal and management skills. For loan information, write Multi-Media Library, Communications Division, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Call is out for ARRG conference '95 papers

The Agriculture and Rural Restructuring Group (ARRG) is calling for papers for its seventh annual rural policy conference. The '95 conference is scheduled for October 11 through 14 in Coaticook, Quebec. The conference theme is international perspectives on rural employment. Papers must be less than 20 pages and directly address rural employment issues. The submission deadline is April 30. For more information or to submit papers, contact Ray Bollan in Ottawa at (613)951-3747, fax (613)951-3868 or e-mail bollan@statcan.ca.

Department business plans now available

Copies of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's three-year business plan are now available. The updated plan was released on February 21 with the provincial government's budget. Copies are available by contacting the policy secretariat at 301, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or call (403)427-2417.

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AGRI-NEWS

March 6, 1995

CANADIANA

JAN 22 1997

Alberta farm fatalities decrease by 32 per cent in '94

There were 15 fatalities on Alberta farms in 1994, a decline of 32 per cent compared to the previous year.

"Excellent growing conditions and general industry optimism may have contributed to fewer deaths," says Eric Jones, Alberta Agriculture farm safety specialist.

However, nine of the fatalities still occurred during the harvest months of August, September and October and three occurred during haying season in June and July.

"Typically, pressures of these seasons tend to be a factor in accidents. As we've always stressed, your life and limbs can't be replaced, so take care no matter the weather," says Jones.

Only four of the 1994 victims were children, a drop of 43 per cent from the previous year. They ranged in age from four to 17 years old. Two of the fatalities involved all-terrain vehicles (ATV).

"Teenagers do see ATV safety as a concern judging by the entries in our teen safety video contest," notes Jones. "It's a useful means of transportation on the farm that has to be respected by users of all ages."

The 45 to 60 age category had the most victims with five fatalities. Three of the 1994 farm fatalities were over the age of 60. Two victims were in the 35 to 44 year-old-category and only one fatality was recorded in the 18 to 34 year-old category.

Farm machinery remained the leading cause of death accounting for two-thirds of 1994 farm fatalities. Four of the 10 farm machinery deaths involved trucks. "Trucks surpassed the tractor as the number one killer last year," notes Jones.

Slightly more fatalities, 53 per cent, occurred in farm fields than the 47 per cent in farm yards.

Complete *1994 Farm Fatality* reports are available from Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program in Edmonton by calling (403)427-2171.

Contact:	*Eric Jones*	*Jacqueline Galloway*
	(403)427-2171	*(403)427-2171*

Teen safety campaign a "Major" hit

Rural Alberta teenagers responded to the challenge of showing the way they saw farm safety making *The Way WE See II* a major success say its sponsors.

UFA, CBC Television and Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program, combined forces to sponsor the unique safety campaign promoting

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

farm safety to rural Alberta teenagers. Teens and farm machinery can be a deadly combination as often teens are inexperienced and insufficiently trained in the safe use of heavy equipment.

The Way WE See It invited high school students to submit 30-second commercials promoting farm safety to their peers. Prizes were offered for the top three commercials.

Entries were judged on overall theme and concept and not on actual filming quality. "Not everyone has the same access to sophisticated filming equipment," explains Jacqueline Galloway, of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program. "What we were looking for was a strong peer-to-peer message."

"What we got were extremely strong messages. The creativity and effort of the young people was outstanding," says UFA president Orval Sorken. "In fact, the top four were so good we decided to add another third place scholarship of $1,000."

The winning entry came from Roxan Gawryluk of Sundre. She receives a $2,500 scholarship plus will be involved in the professional production of her commercial by CBC. The commercial will air on CBC Television in the spring. [See related story.] Gawryluk's school will also receive a video camera as part of the contest prize package.

"Roxan used *It Can't Happen to Me*, a song by country singer Charlie Major, as her theme. We contacted Mr. Major and not only did he generously agree to let us use the song in the final production, he's agreed to appear in the commercial," says Galloway.

Second place in *The Way WE See It* went to the team of Jonelle Fenton, Janelle Quigley and Maria Bird from Cremona. Their commercial featured a teenage girl who is killed showing off her new all-terrain vehicle (ATV). Their prize is a $1,500 scholarship.

Tying for third and $1,000 scholarships were two class efforts. Robert Kyle and 12 classmates from Smoky Lake also focused on ATV safety with a teenager who gets hurt when he rushes through chores so he can go to a party. Brad Andrew and 11 classmates from Drumheller pointed out there's a time for fooling around and a time to be serious, and compared machinery with getting a date – you have to treat both with respect and care.

"Judges from all the campaign sponsors were impressed by the concepts, ideas and innovations in the 67 entries put together by 242 students from across the province," says Galloway.

UFA will host a special reception on Thursday March 16 for the winners and their families during its annual meeting in Calgary.

Contact: Jacqueline Galloway (403)427-2171 Orval Sorken (403)258-4508

Sundre student sees it can happen to anyone

Roxan Gawryluk's way of seeing farm safety has earned her a $2,500 scholarship, a chance to be the executive producer of a commercial going on CBC airwaves and the opportunity to meet Canadian country music star Charlie Major.

Gawryluk's entry won *The Way WE See It*, a contest sponsored by UFA, CBC Television and Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program. It challenged rural Alberta teenagers to show the way they saw farm safety in a 30-second commercial. Her entry was chosen from 67 submissions sent in by over 242 students who worked together in groups or alone to produce the entries.

The Sundre high school student used Major's song *It Can't Happen to Me* as the theme of her safety message. Clips of young people operating farm machinery and the machinery's warning stickers were shown against the backdrop of the song. To finish, the words "It can happen to anyone" fill the screen.

"The song Roxan used really personifies the cause of teen farm accidents," says Jacqueline Galloway, Alberta Agriculture farm safety consultant and *The Way WE See It's* co-ordinator. "Teens tend to think they're invincible. They think they're too fast and too smart to get into trouble. Unfortunately, it's often too late when they realize it can happen to them.

"Charlie Major's song really brings home that message and all of us involved in *The Way WE See It* feel that young people will relate to it," she adds.

Originally, contest results were scheduled to be announced in December. "Because we chose Roxan's entry, we had to take an extra step and get permission to use the song. That meant contacting Mr. Major and as a result the whole campaign will be getting an extra boost from Canada's 1993 Country Entertainer of the Year," says Orval Sorkan, UFA president.

Major agreed to let *It Can't Happen to Me* be used in the commercial without any compensation to him. "And, he was so taken with the farm safety issue and the fact Roxan would use his song to promote safety to teens, he also agreed to appear in the commercial," says Galloway.

"His support is sure to raise the profile of the safety commercial and all *The Way WE See It's* sponsors are very appreciative of Mr. Major's generosity," adds Sorken.

Gawryluk will be part of the professional production of her winning safety commercial concept. She'll be the executive producer, and the commercial will be shot around her home community of Sundre west of Olds. CBC is producing the safety spot and the commercial will air on CBC Television this spring.

Contact: Jacqueline Galloway (403)427-2171 Orval Sorken (403)258-4508

Five-part series to securing your farm's future

Most farm families and farm owners know their future depends on more than how well they produce their crops. An increasingly key factor is how they manage their farms says an Alberta Agriculture business management specialist.

"Management takes in a number of skills, abilities and even arrangements," says Garry Bradshaw of the farm business management branch. "Marketing is a management skill. An ability to communicate well with family members or employees is farm management. The actual structure of your farm, or your business arrangements, is another element of management," he adds.

To help farm families review issues related to owning, operating and managing their farm, Alberta Agriculture has published a series of five booklets about business arrangements. The *Securing the Future of Your Farm* series includes: Ownership and Farm Transfers (Agdex 812-10), Business Arrangements (Agdex 812-11), Farming as a Corporation (Agdex 812-12), Farming as a Partnership (Agdex 812-13) and Operating a Joint Venture (Agdex 812-14).

Bradshaw, one of the series' authors, recommends Ownership and Family Transfers as a good starting point for all farm families. "Through its review you may be prompted to think about the best form of business arrangement for your farm.

"The next step is likely Business Arrangements," he adds. "It compares the benefits and disadvantages of sole proprietorship, corporations, partnerships and joint ventures." This leads into at least one of the other three booklets that has more detail on three specific types of business arrangements.

The complete series and individual booklets are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices. Each booklet is $8 plus GST. They can also be ordered from the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Add $2 shipping and handling for orders in Canada, plus GST.

Contact: *Garry Bradshaw*
(403)556-4244

Tips for, not from, the bench

Whether organizer, exhibitor or judge, planning is an essential part of getting ready for a bench show.

Many communities across Alberta hold bench shows to display local talents in baking, sewing, horticulture and crafts.

"If you're looking for some help, Alberta Agriculture has a new publication, two updated ones and a video," says Louise Welsh, agricultural societies program consultant.

Planning a Bench Show is a practical guide for anyone planning a bench show. "The step-by-step format is useful for someone involved in their first bench show, but it's not limited to the novice," says Welsh.

"There are hints, activities and ideas [illegible] committees can use to improve their bench show. The guide is something any bench show committee will find helpful for many years," she adds.

The 75-page workbook includes budgeting, working with volunteers, preparing a prize list, advertising, hiring judges, displaying exhibits and evaluating. Worksheets are included and can be used as an ongoing record for future planning committees.

The guide costs $5 and comes shrink-wrapped, hole-punched and ready to be inserted into a standard binder. "*Planning a Bench Show* won't be stocked or sold at Alberta Agriculture district offices but is available from the department's publications office in Edmonton," notes Welsh.

To order *Planning a Bench Show* send $5 plus $2 handling (in Canada) plus GST to: Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Make cheque or money order payable to the Provincial Treasurer.

"There's also *Planning a Bench Show – The Video*," adds Welsh. "The 15-minute production is a discussion starter for a planning committee." It can be borrowed from Alberta Agriculture district video libraries for a nominal fee. As well, the video can be purchased for $20.

"Our books on judging standards also provide insight and information about bench shows for both first-time and experienced exhibitors," says Welsh.

Judging Standards for Horticultural Shows is more than judging standards. The 57-page book has hints for organizers plus is a quick, accurate reference for any horticulturist or gardener interested in exhibiting their fruits, flowers and vegetables. This book costs $8.

Judging Standards for Foods, Sewing and Handicrafts is a shorter book that helps readers produce and identify winning entries. Updated in 1993, the 30-page book costs $5.

"Both judges and exhibitors will learn about characteristics to consider in producing winning bench show entries," says Welsh.

Both judging standards books are available at Alberta Agriculture district offices as well as the Edmonton publications office.

Contact: *Louise Welsh*
(403)427-2171

BST panel featured at Dairy Seminar

The science and the practice of BST from research, animal health and producer's perspectives will be featured at a Western Canadian Dairy Seminar panel discussion.

The 13th annual seminar runs March 14 through 17 in Red Deer. More than 20 expert speakers cover a broad range of technical, trade and research topics in plenary and concurrent sessions.

continued on page 4

Plenary sessions are in three general areas – reproduction, a vision for the industry's future and nutrition and management. Concurrent session topics include creating a productive environment, health, forages, marketing and promotion.

"The BST panel discussion is the featured evening event on March 16," says Brian Cameron, chair of the seminar advisory committee.

"This discussion is important because it presents facts," says Cameron who is also an Alberta Agriculture dairy management specialist. "Facts are important before anyone – producer through to consumer – makes a decision."

Panel members include a New York dairy producer, a Wisconsin veterinarian, a dairy science professor and a Monsanto technical service manager.

The producer, Jeff True of True Farms Inc. in New York state, has used BST since 1988. He milks 300 cows three times daily. His herd has a rolling average of 23,400 pounds.

Veterinarian Gordon Jones works closely with 45 herds that use BST in his Onconto Falls practice area. "Dr. Jones stresses animal comfort and a cow's environment in maintaining high-producing cows," says Cameron.

The science of BST will be discussed by John Kennelly and Winston Samuels. Kennelly, a University of Alberta dairy science professor, will tell how BST works in the cow. He'll also cover the insulin growth factor (IGF-1) and some molecular work completed at the University of Alberta.

Samuels represents BST's manufacturer Monsanto. He'll review U.S. research results and BST introduction in other countries including recent approval for limited use in the EC.

"Each panel member will speak for 10 minutes. After all have spoken, the floor will be opened for questions," explains Cameron who will moderate the panel discussion.

Complete seminar registration is $165, the single day rate is $85 and the student rate is $50. Seminar brochures are available at all Alberta Agriculture district offices.

For registration and other information, contact the University of Alberta at (403)492-2601 or fax (403)492-9130.

Contact: *Brian Cameron*
(403)427-8906

Just what is BST?

Bovine somatotropin, better known as BST, is a protein hormone produced naturally in the pituitary gland of all cows and is found naturally in all milk.

Without BST, cows couldn't produce milk. Cows with naturally higher levels of BST produce higher volumes of milk

"The controversy is in supplementing the natural level of BST with manufactured BST," says Brian Cameron, Alberta Agriculture dairy management specialist. This artificial BST is sometimes referred to as recombinant BST (rBST).

BST supplementation isn't new. It can be traced back to the 1930s. During World War II, the British tried to use BST to increase milk production. However, the science didn't exist to manufacture the hormone

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved use of manufactured BST in 1993. Milk produced from treated cows has been available there for over a year. BST has been approved for voluntary use in over a dozen other countries. As well, the EC recently approved its limited use.

In Canada, a moratorium on the manufactured hormone runs out on July 1, 1995. A report reviewing its impact on the dairy industry, animal health and genetics, human health and consumer relations is expected by the federal agriculture minister before that date.

Contact: *Brian Cameron*
(403)427-8906

Alberta Ram Test Station entry dates March 15 and 29

Sheep breeders who want to put their rams to the test can enter the 1995 *Alberta Ram Test Station*.

There are two entry dates, March 15 and March 29, for the annual test station located at Olds College. Ram lambs born in the fall of 1994 or later are eligible for the test.

"There are space restrictions, so only producers who have pre-registered and paid deposits for their rams will be admitted. If you want to participate, register early," encourages Wray Whitmore, provincial sheep specialist.

Registration is $50 per lamb with half of the fee due as part of pre-registering. Out-of-province contributors must pay an additional $50 per lamb.

New contributors who want to enter rams should contact the Alberta Sheep Breeder's Association or station manager Cathy Gallivan for a pre-entry veterinary inspection form. The association's telephone number is (403)549-2465. Gallivan can be reached at (403)224-3962.

At the conclusion of the test, rams passing the physical cull and in sound health are sold. The sale is scheduled for July 8, 1995.

For more information about the 1995 ram test, contact Gallivan at (403)224-3962.

Contact: *Wray Whitmore* *Cathy Gallivan*
(403)427-5083 *(403)224-3962*

Partnership creates ARTI

Government, industry, conservation and academic organizations are the partners in a three-year $1.5 million program aimed at providing Alberta farmers with up-to-date information on reduced tillage techniques and resulting economic and environmental benefits.

The *Alberta Reduced Tillage Initiative* (ARTI) partners are Alberta Agriculture, the Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS), Monsanto Canada, Sherritt Fertilizers, Ducks Unlimited/Prairie Care, Alberta Pool's Conservation 2000 and Olds College.

ARTI grew out of a 1993-94 direct seeding pilot project that drew 700 producers to 17 courses and 2,500 producers to four demonstration days. This strong initial interest led organizers to expand the program and broaden the partnership.

"The Alberta Reduced Tillage Initiative will become the partnership's arms and legs necessary to deliver vital information to Alberta agricultural producers who have expressed considerable support for such a program," says Murray Sankey, ACTS president. "With ARTI, we have staff and resources specifically dedicated to this program, that will allow us to jointly target our efforts for a more efficient and effective program.

"Our goals are to bring together all those who see reduced tillage as a means of achieving better farm economic viability and industry sustainability to work together to accelerate adoption of reduced tillage practices among Alberta producers," he adds.

ARTI has also set measures for its success. The objectives of the three-year program are to: increase direct seeding of annual crops by 1.5 million acres per year; accelerate the reduction in traditional summerfallow techniques by 300,000 acres per year; and, increase adoption of reduced tillage summerfallow practices by 200,000 acres per year.

In 1995, ARTI will operate about 50 winter and spring education events, three major demonstration days in June and summer tours across the province.

During March and April, ARTI partner Olds College will conduct a needs assessment to identify barriers in adopting reduced tillage practices and ways to overcome those barriers.

Reduced tillage is a cropping system that allows farmers to plant new crops directly into the previous year's crop stubble with a minimum of soil disturbance.

Contact: *Donna Fleury*
(403)948-8521

4-H entry age drops to nine

Young Albertans can now join 4-H at age nine instead of waiting until they are 10 years old.

The age change becomes effective September 1, 1995. Club leaders and 4-H councils were notified of the change earlier this year.

Roots of the age requirement change are in a petition made to the Alberta 4-H Council last year by the Northeast Regional Council.

"The provincial council consulted with the 4-H community between March and July last year. Based on their findings, the council recommended to the department that the entry age of 4-H members could be lowered from 10 to nine," says Ted Youck, head of the home economics and 4-H branch.

As well, a 4-H staff committee assessed potential economic and organizational impacts of such a change on the Alberta 4-H program. "As a result of the committee's and council's findings, Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's minister officially approved the age criterion change," adds Youck.

Age in the 4-H program is considered the age of a club member by January 1 of the current club year.

With Alberta's change, Ontario is the only remaining province with the age 10 qualification.

Contact: *Ted Youck*
(403)422-4444

Agri-News briefs

Saskatoon production seminars at three locations

The Fruit Growers Society of Alberta is holding three saskatoon production workshops in mid-March. The workshops are March 15 in Grande Prairie, March 17 in Edmonton and March 18 in Okotoks. The workshop covers production, economics and marketing of saskatoons. For more information, contact Shirley Alton at (403)998-2782 in Ardrossan.

AIA 49th annual conference March 16-18

The Alberta Institute of Agrologists (AIA) will hold its 49th annual conference March 16 through 18 in Medicine Hat. The conference theme is professional development. Richard Stringham, Rural Education and Development Association (REDA) director, will provide the keynote address on the topic "Can professional development be done professionally?" The AIA conference is the same time as the *AgVenture Trade Show and Pro Rodeo* and delegates have the opportunity to attend both. For more information contact Henry Najda at (403)362-3391 or Graham Gilchrist at (403)223-7907.

National turkey meeting March 29

The Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency will hold its 21st annual meeting March 29. The meeting is in Ottawa's Westin Hotel. For more information call the national office in Missisauga at (905)564-3100.

40-years of experience at Red Angus production sale

Three Alberta Red Angus breeders with over 40 years of expertise will hold their first joint production sale on March 25. The sale starts at 1 p.m. at the Olds Cow Palace. The bull sale is billed as unique as the producers' management philosophy is to feed cattle for moderate size and longevity. The target is a two and half to two and three-quarter pound per day gain. For more information, contact Don Gano at (403)638-4314, Rod Rosevear at (403)638-2276 or Dan Siemens at (403)335-4043.

Swine centre spring satellite conference series

The Prairie Swine Centre's spring conference series will be in Alberta via satellite on March 22 and live in Red Deer on March 28. Research scientists from the centre, the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and a guest speaker will discuss new technical developments in the industry from the University of Saskatchewan. Alberta hookup sites are in Camrose, Clyde, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Olds, Edmonton and Vermilion. The March 28 tour stop in Red Deer has different topics than the satellite sessions. Registration begins at 10 a.m. at the Red Deer Lodge. For more information, contact Debbie Karbonik-Redmond or Lee Whitington in Saskatoon at (306)373-9922 or Art Lange in Edmonton at (403)427-5319.

Olds College appoints new president

Olds College has found a new president to take over when incumbent Bob Bigsby officially steps down on August 31. Robert Turner will begin his five-year term on August 1. Turner has nearly 20 years of experience in post-secondary education and currently is vice-president of Capilano College in North Vancouver. He also spent five years at Fairview College as dean of student services. "Olds College has many great people, great traditions and is indeed an extraordinary institution poised on the brink of considerable change...I am truly looking forward to being part of it all," says Turner. For more information, contact Sharon Carry, acting president, Olds College at (403)556-8337; Robert Lockwood, vice-president academic, (403)556-8302; or, Shelley Brolsman, media/public relations, (403)556-4611.

New agri-retailer association formed

The Western Fertilizer and Chemical Dealers has disbanded and the Canadian Association of Agri-Retailers (CAAR) has been formed. For more information, contact Neil Jorgensen in Lethbridge at (403)327-1950 or Jacqueline Ryrie, executive director, in Winnipeg at (204)989-9300.

Coming agricultural events

47th Seed and Hay Show
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary March 4-7
Michel Higginbotham-(403)261-0162-Calgary; or, 1-800-661-1260

Calgary Bull Sale
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary March 5-7
Michel Higginbotham-(403)261-0162-Calgary; or, 1-800-661-1260

Agriculture Week
Alberta March 5-11
Mel Miller or Scott Reid-(403)427-2121-Edmonton

28th annual Canola Council of Canada
Pan Pacific Hotel
Vancouver, B.C. March 5-7
Wendy Miller or Jane McDonald-(204)982-2100
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Hulless Barley Utiliazation Seminars
Lethbridge Lodge March 6
Capri Centre, Red Deer March 7
Westlock Inn March 8
Grande Prairie Inn March 9
Alberta Barley Commission-1-800-265-9111

National Farm Safety Week
March 7-11
(Alberta) Jacqueline Galloway-(403)427-2171- Edmonton

Geographic Information Systems
University of Alberta, Faculty of Extension
Edmonton March 7-9
Michael Splinter-(403)492-3035-Edmonton

AG-COMPUFAIR
Stampede Barn
Drumheller March 8
Ellen Frombach-(403)443-8525-Three Hills;
Joan MacFarlane-(403)948-2624-Airdrie

10th Annual Peace Country Classic Agri-Show
Evergreen Park
Grande Prairie March 9-11
Grande Prairie Regional Agricultural
Society-(403)532-3279-Grande Prairie

Alberta Goat Breeders Association annual general meeting
Lookout room, Westerner Exposition
Red Deer March 11
Lesley Jackson-(403)985-3863-Calmar

Provincial Soils Workshop
Grande Prairie Inn
Grande Prairie March 13-15
George Clayton-(403)354-2212-Beaverlodge

13th Annual Western Canadian Dairy Seminar
Capri Centre
Red Deer March 14-16
University of Alberta extension faculty-(403)492-2601-Edmonton

1995 Fruit Growers Society of Alberta Saskatoon Production Seminars
Grande Prairie March 15
Edmonton March 17
Okotoks March 18
Shirley Alton-(403)998-2782-Ardrossan

Alberta Institute of Agrologists 49th Annual Meeting
Medicine Hat Lodge
Medicine Hat March 16-18
Graham Gilchrist-(403)223-7907-Taber

AgVenture Trade Show and Pro Rodeo
Cypress Centre
Medicine Hat March 16-18
Nicole Bachmeier [trade show]-(403)527-5214-Medicine Hat;
Dan Sodero [rodeo]-(403)527-1234-Medicine Hat

Little Royal Weekend
Lakeland College
Vermilion March 17-19
Charman Franz-(403)853-8404-Vermilion; or, 1-800-661-6490

1995 Smoky River Agricultural, Home & Leisure Trade Show
Arena, curling rink and Knights Hall
Falher March 17-19
Roch Bremont or Jeanne Bisson-(403)837-2211-Falher

Mayerthorpe Ag Expo'95
Diamond Center and Ag building
Mayerthorpe March 18-19
Ruby DeColette – (403)786-2347-Mayerthorpe

Pesticide Applicators' Training Seminar
Lethbridge Community College
Lethbridge March 20-24
John Calpas-(403)320-3311-Lethbridge

Northlands Farm and Ranch Show & Seed Show
Northlands AgriCom
Edmonton March 22-25
Michele Weitzel-(403)471-7260-Edmonton

Alliances for Success: A workshop to develop strategies for growth and development
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan March 23
Pauline Molder-(306)966-4022-Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Waste Facility Impact Screening for Environmental Health Risk
University of Alberta, Faculty of Extension
Edmonton March 27-28
Michael Splinter-(403)492-3035-Edmonton

Aggie Days & Dairy Classic
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary March 29-April 1
Michel Higginbotham-(403)261-0162-Calgary; or, 1-800-661-1260

Global Pioneering Open House
Olds College April 1
Shelley Brolsman-(403)556-4611-Olds

National Soil Conservation Week
April 2-8
Tamara Lewis or Barb Shackel
Hardman-(403)422-4385-Edmonton

1995 Annual Meat Marketing Conference
Atlanta, Georgia April 2-4
Lesa Faris-(703)841-2400-Arlington, Virgina;
Mark Hill-(202)452-84444-Washington, D.C.

5th International Microirrigation Congress
Hyatt Regency Orlando
Orlando, Florida April 2-6
Society for engineerging in agricultural, food and biological systems (ASAE)-(616)428-6327-St. Joseph, Michigan

Practical Horse Management Course
Lethbridge Community College
Lethbridge (starts) April 4
John Calpas-(403)320-3311-Lethbridge

Consolidated Spring Classic
North Barn, Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary April 10
Trish Seitz-(403)252-8110-Calgary; or, 1-800-268-5569

Spruce Meadows Auction of Select Horses
Spruce Meadows
Calgary April 28-30
Jack Hugill-(403)974-4200-Calgary

Sustainable Agriculture Association 10th anniversary and workshop
Girl Guides of Canada Building
Calgary April 29
Penny Marshall-(403)652-2650-High River;
Raphaël Thierrin-(403)686-3310-Calgary

National Animal Health Week
May 7-13
Canadian Veterinary Medical Association-(613)236-1162
Ottawa, Ontario

Planning for a Sustainable Future: The Case of the North American Great Plains Symposium
Lincoln, Nebraska May 8-10
Donald Wilhite-402)472-6707-Lincoln, Nebraska

Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors Annual Conference
Charlottetown, PEI May 28-31
CCGD office-(514)982-0267-Montreal, Quebec

Canadian 4-H Council Annual Meeting
The Lodge at Kananaskis
Kananaskis May 31-June 4
Ted Youck-(403)422-4444-Edmonton

Pulp from Crop Residues: Alberta Agripulp Workshop
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton May 31-June 1
REDA-(403)451-5959-Edmonton

Direct Seeding Equipment Field Days
Grade Prairie June 1-3
Daryl Switzer-(403)532-9722- Grande Prairie

4-H On Parade
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary June 2-4
Michel Higginbotham-(403)261-0162-Calgary; or, 1-800-661-1260

Economic Development and Co-operatives into the 21 Century
Centennial Auditorium
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan June 12-14
University of Saskatchewan
Extension-(306)966-5539-Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Rural Water Quality Workshop
Sands Hotel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan June 13-15
Bob Buchanan-(403)674-8252-Barrhead

8th Pincher Creek Cowboy poetry Gathering
Pincher Creek Agricultural Grounds and Community Hall
Pincher Creek June 16-18
Tanya (403)637-4047-Cremona; Bev-(403)628-2115
Pincher Creek

7th International Symposium on Agriculture and Food Processing Wastes (ISAFPW95)
Hyatt Refency
Chicago, Illinois June 18-20
ASAE-(616)428-6327-St. Joseph, Michigan

Breton Plots Field Day
Breton Plots
Breton June 30
Jim Robertson-(403)492-6466-Edmonton

Alberta Horse Improvement Program, draft horse section
Stampede Park
Calgary July 5
Les Burwash-(403)948-8532-Airdrie

Western Canada Agronomy Workshop
Capri Centre
Red Deer July 5-7
Terry Roberts-(306)652-3535-Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Seeds in Time: Canadian Seed Growers Association '95 meeting
Chateau Halifax
Halifax, Nova Scotia July 5-7
Dwane Mellish-(902)893-6556-Truro, Nova Scotia

Calgary Stampede
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary July 7-16
Michel Higginbotham-(403)261-0162-Calgary; or, 1-800-661-1260

75th Annual Conference Agriculture Institute of Canada – Global Realities and Society's Expectations"
Ottawa, Ontario July 9-13
Gary Koestler or Alan Bentley-(613)957-7078-Ottawa, Ontario

10th International Farm Management Conference
University of Reading
Reading, England July 10-16
Centre of Management in
Agriculture-(44)01734-351458-Reading, England

Agricultural Service Boards Tour
County of Forty Mile No. 8
Foremost July 11-14
Vernon Arnold-(403)867-3530-Foremost

Annual Summer Education Agricultural Institute
Lethbridge Community College
Lethbridge July 16-23
Betty Gabert-(403)427-2171-Edmonton;
John Calpas-(403)320-3311-Lethbridge

Special Crops Conference
Marlborough Inn
Calgary July 25-27
Nabi Chaudhary-(403)427-4005-Edmonton;
Beata Lees-(403)381-5237-Lethbridge

World Sheep and Wool Congress
Three Counties Showground
Malvern, Worcester, England July 31-August 3
Royal Agricultural Society of England, national Ag. Centre,
Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, U.S. CV8 2LZ

North American Weed Management Association Annual Conference
Holiday Inn
Billings, Montana August 9-11
Terry Turner-(406)265-5481, ext. 65-Harve, Montana

Poultry Science Association annual meeting
University of Alberta
Edmonton August 14-18
Martin Zuidhof-(403)427-5320-Edmonton;
Bob Hardin-(403)492-3232-Edmonton

Alberta Horse Improvement Program, light horse section
Westerner Fairgrounds
Red Deer September 16-17
September 23-24
Les Burwash-(403)948-8532-Airdrie;
Bob Coleman-(403)427-8906-Edmonton

International Perspectives on Rural Employment: 7th annual Rural Policy Conference of the Agriculture and Rural Restructuring Group
Coaticook, Quebec October 11-14
Ray Bollman-(613)951-3868-Ottawa, Ontario

Northlands Farmfair'95
Northlands AgriCom and Sportex
Edmonton November 4-12
Michele Weitzel-(403)471-7260-Edmonton

1995 Alberta Sheep Symposium
Capri Centre
Red Deer November 24-26
Wray Whitmore-(403)427-5083-Edmonton

Editor's Note: Alberta communities host a number of local fairs. Because there are so many, they are not listed here. However, an annual list of agricultural society fairs is compiled by the agricultural education and community services branch. The booklet is available by writing Alberta Agriculture Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Please quote Agdex 007.

Coming agricultural events notice

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1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions **in 1995**? Please state the name of the event.

2 What are the dates?

3 Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the **name, city or town, and phone number** of a **contact person** for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization). **Please include your telephone number**:

Please return this form by* May 25, 1995 *to:

Agri-News Editor
Communications Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
FAX (403)427-2861

("Coming agricultural events" is published four times a year in **Agri-News**. The next list will be **June 5, 1995**)

AGRI-NEWS

March 13, 1995

CANADIANA

JAN 22 1997

South American soybeans, carryovers and Canadian canola

Export demand is one factor in favor of the canola market, but pressure from April onward is likely as South American oil becomes available and palm oil production rises says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"World oilseed production is forecast at a record 254 million tonnes in 1994-95," says Al Dooley. "The South American soybean crop is also estimated to hit record levels."

Brazil and Argentina produce about 30 per cent of the world's soybeans. They export an average of 56 per cent of the world soybean trade and 52 per cent of the world soyoil trade.

"Obviously those figures show the South American soybean crop can have a huge effect on world oilseed trade," notes Dooley. "When their harvest ends in April and May, that production will pressure markets.

"One positive in the market is demand. The demand for vegetable oil is very strong and has dominated the market for several months," he adds. "A continuation of recent good buyer demand should temper prices declines come April."

Oilseed markets actually edged higher through February despite the huge 1994 U.S. soybean crop and the apparent record crop coming in South America. Canola prices were supported by slow farmer sales and good Japanese export activity. "Gains were fairly modest, but sales have been good," notes Dooley.

Canada produced almost two million more tonnes of canola in 1994 than in 1993, however stocks on December 31 were very similar. Export statistics indicate canola exports were running almost 50 per cent ahead of last year's pace in mid-February. Domestic disappearance is also up 25 per cent from 1993-94.

"This points to another year of tight carryover canola stocks," says Dooley. "Another factor is that farmers are expected to seed fewer canola acres this spring. Seedings will be down. The question is how much."

Dooley estimates total area to be in the 12 to 13 million acre range with a 6 to 6.5 million tonne 1995 crop. "With current exchange rates, we should have no difficulty disposing of a crop this size and see another year of tight carryover stocks," he says.

"For producers, the good thing about the coming year is that there's probably not a huge amount of downside," he adds.

Contact: Al Dooley
(403)427-5387

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Keep an eye on the dollar

Livestock and special crop producers need to keep their eye on the Canadian dollar's value say two Alberta Agriculture market analysts.

"A weak Canadian dollar has been an advantage in livestock markets for several years running," says Ron Gietz of the market analysis and statistics branch.

"Thanks to a weak dollar during the first quarter of this year, Alberta slaughter hog prices ran close to 1994 levels while U.S. prices were well-below last year's prices," he notes.

In cattle markets, the U.S. beef industry is in an expansion phase. That trend will affect Canadian prices. "The reality is that trends in the Canada/U.S. exchange rate will be equally, if not more, important to long-term price prospects for Canadian cow-calf producers," adds Gietz. "Cattle producers need to keep their eye on the Canadian dollar value."

The value of Canada's loonie may also be a determining factor in where old crop special crop prices are headed. "If the dollar appreciates this spring it will put additional pressure – other than seasonal – on prices," says Matthew Machielse.

"An improving exchange rate translates into about a nickel per bushel drop on dry pea bids for each one cent of increase in Canadian rates," he adds.

Contact: Doug Walkey (403)427-5376 Matthew Machielse (403)427-5387

Hog prices settled, but bear watching

After wild prices swings in recent months, hog prices settled into narrow trading during the first quarter of 1995 notes an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"U.S. markets are hovering around the $40/cwt. mark and Alberta prices are ranging between $1.40 and $1.45/kg," says Ron Gietz of the market analysis and statistics branch.

Commercial pork production in the U.S. is running about five per cent above 1994 with prices well-below year-ago levels in the U.S. "Thanks to a weak dollar, slaughter hog prices in Alberta are closer to 1994 levels and above the 1990-94 average price of $1.39/kg," he adds.

Gietz forecasts Alberta Index-100 average hog prices for March and April at $1.45/kg, $1.50 in May, $1.60 in June and then falling off to $1.55 in July and $1.50 in August. Except for March, all the forecast prices are higher than for the same time in 1994.

"This is similar to previous forecasts," he notes. "However, the slightly higher than expected pace of marketings does bear watching."

Contact: Ron Gietz (403)427-5376

Spring lamb prices up before summer decline

Lamb producers can look forward to slaughter prices in the mid to upper $90/cwt. range this spring says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Local markets always follow the U.S. market and it turned the corner in mid-February and is headed higher over the next couple of months," says Ron Gietz of the market analysis and statistics branch.

"But, as usual, a seasonal decline of about $10/cwt. will follow in the summer months," he adds.

Gietz notes in years when lamb prices are relatively strong, higher lambing and weaning rates pay larger dividends. "Extra time and expense in improving lambing performance could be worthwhile again this year," he says.

Last year lamb slaughter declined in Alberta. Over 56,000 lambs were slaughtered in federally inspected plants in 1994. "This is a decrease of 18 per cent from 1993 and the lowest federally inspected slaughter since 1980," notes Gietz. As well, preliminary provincial plant slaughter figures also decreased.

"If we are to believe recent inventory statistics showing remarkable growth of the provincial flock, then increasingly Alberta lambs are being finished or slaughtered outside the province," says Gietz.

Contact: Doug Walkey (403)427-5376

El Nino and warm, dry weather continued into February

El Nino made February the third consecutive month of above normal temperatures in Alberta.

"Average February temperatures ranged from near normal to 4.4 degrees above normal and El Nino was likely responsible," says Peter Dzikowski, Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist. The average monthly temperature for February was 8.2°C, 1.4 degrees above the 1961 to 1990 normal temperature. Averages are based on data recorded at 44 Environment Canada climate stations across the province.

An El Nino event is a large area of unusually warm water in the tropical Pacific. Generally El Nino causes above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation in Western Canada during the winter months.

"February began with temperatures ten to fifteen degrees above normal," notes Dzikowski. Cold arctic air returned to Alberta the second week of February, after a three week absence. The third week of February had sunshine and seasonal temperatures.

Warm mild Pacific air dominated the province up to the last few days of February, with temperatures well above normal. New record

Cont'd on page 3

maximum temperatures were set in central and southern Alberta between February 18 and 21.

"Temperatures reached the high teens in southern Alberta Lethbridge had two consecutive record temperatures on February 20 and 21 of 19.4 and 16.1°C," he says

Lethbridge also reported the warmest monthly average in Alberta at 1.8°C, 3.1 degrees above normal. High Level reported the coldest monthly average temperature at -17.5°C, 0.6 degrees above normal.

"While temperatures were warmer than normal, precipitation was well below normal," notes Dzikowski. The average precipitation was 9.1 mm, 7.8 mm below the 1961 to 1990 average for the month. Averages are based on data recorded at Environment Canada climate stations across the province.

"Several locations in central and southern Alberta reported little precipitation for the third month in a row," he says. "All Alberta locations received precipitation amounts below normal. Half of the province reported less than 10 mm with amounts varying from zero to 60 per cent of normal."

High Level also reported the most precipitation, 32.6 mm, 191 per cent of its February normal of 17 mm.

For more information, contact Dzikowski in Edmonton at 422-4385.

Contact: *Peter Dzikowski*
(403)422-4385

Ag and Food Council seeks new members

Alberta's Agriculture and Food Council is looking for new members to join their team.

The Agriculture and Food Council is a group of dynamic, enthusiastic individuals from all parts of Alberta's agriculture and food industry. The council is an independent body that leads and guides the industry and government toward realizing the vision and goals of *Creating Tomorrow*.

"Council members believe Alberta's agriculture and food industry should be profitable, environmentally sustainable, globally competitive and value its people; and, they are committed to seeing this happen," says Jim Waters, Agriculture and Food Council chair

As part of the council team, members are involved in: monitoring and reporting industry progress toward achieving the vision; working to remove barriers to progress; consulting with the industry to determine concerns and issues; facilitating industry and industry/government partnerships to address issues and take advantage of opportunities; providing information and planning assistance to industry groups pursuing the *Creating Tomorrow* vision; communicating about *Creating Tomorrow* and ways to reach the vision; and, attending bi-monthly meetings (five to six meetings a year).

"Council members are selected on their proven ability to promote positive change, their demonstrated interest in achieving the *Creating Tomorrow* vision, and their flexibility in working with others toward a common purpose. Experience and knowledge of the industry are also important factors," says Ken Stickland, vice chair of planning

If you are interested in becoming a part of this exciting team, or if you know someone who would be an excellent addition to the council, please submit a written nomination by March 31, 1995 to Jim Waters, Chair, Agriculture and Food Council, c/o Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Policy Secretariat, #301, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6

If you have any questions about the council or becoming a member, please call Jim Waters in Calgary at (403)730-3511 or Ken Stickland in Edmonton at (403)468-4442.

Contact: *Jim Waters* *Ken Stickland* *Barb Strob*
(403)730-3511 *(403)468-4442* *(403)427-2417*

Paszkowski to become honorary agrologist

The Alberta Institute of Agrologists (AIA) will make the province's agriculture minister its first honorary agrologist on March 16.

Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister, will be installed as an honorary AIA member on March 16 in Medicine Hat during the first day of the 49th annual AIA conference.

"This is a great start for our conference," says Reg Norby, AIA executive manager. The conference runs March 16 through 18 at the Medicine Hat Lodge.

The focus of the 1995 conference is professional development. Keynote speaker Richard Stringham will tackle that topic by answering the question "can professional development be done professionally?". Stringham is director of rural and co-operative development with the Rural Education and Development Association (REDA).

"Friday morning also features the Klinck lecture," says Henry Najda, one of the conference organizers. The Klinck lecture is a national series on a topic of interest to agrologists. In 1995 it features a celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC).

Reg Forbes, a former AIC president, will pay tribute to the AIC in a retrospect of the past 75 years in the industry and profession, as well as looking ahead at the continuing need for the organization and how it can serve Canadian agriculture

"He says the founding principles of AIC are still valid in 1995," says Norby. "And, that the AIC is still in the best position to inform the urban public about agricultural facts about the sometimes emotional issues related to food production, land use and the environment."

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Other topics on the conference agenda include environmental consulting in the 1990s, biotechnology, improving client service and the FBMInet. Conference participants also have the opportunity to attend the AgVenture Trade Show and Pro Rodeo '95.

The conference winds up with an awards banquet on Saturday evening. Awards will be made in two categories – distinguished agrologist and professional recognition.

AIA is an association representing professional agrologists in the province.

For more information about the conference, contact Najda in Brooks at (403)362-3391 or Graham Gilchrist in Taber at (403)223-7907.

Contact: Henry Najda (403)362-3391 Reg Norby (403)432-0663

Swine updates live and by satellite

Alberta Agriculture's pork team is co-operating with the Prairie Swine Centre to bring a spring conference series to Alberta via satellite on March 22 and live in Red Deer on March 28.

Research scientists from the centre, the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and a guest speaker will discuss new developments in the industry from the University of Saskatchewan on March 22.

"The satellite conference will be available at seven Alberta hookup sites," notes Art Lange, supervisor of swine improvement for Alberta Agriculture.

The locations are in at the Camrose Regional Exhibition's Red Room, the sales ring of Nilsson Bros Livestock Exchange in Clyde, the Trumpeter Motor Inn's Richmond C room in Grande Prairie, Lethbridge Community College in Lethbridge, the Learning Resource Centre (Room 735) at Olds College, the University of Alberta in Edmonton and Alumni Hall (Room 256-257) at Lakeland College in Vermilion.

Topics include practical ways to improve air quality, optimizing production, segregated early weaning and lower feed costs to raise profits.

"Despite the number of locations, space is limited and pre-registration is recommended," notes Lange. The cost for the satellite conference is $20 if pre-registered by March 13. At the door, the cost is $25. Producers can get a $5 discount if they supply a marketing board number.

Registration fees include lunch.Registration at the door is between 10:45 and 11:15 a.m. The program begins at 11:30 a.m.

"The March 28 tour stop in Red Deer has different topics than the satellite sessions," notes Lange. The seminar will be at the Red Deer Lodge.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. The program will run to approximately 3 p.m. Topics include current concepts in sow nutrition, summer ventilation, profiting at higher market weights, is abnormal behavior abnormal, future world markets for pork and start thinking about 25+ pigs/sow.

Registration for the Red Deer tour stop is $20 at the door, or $15 if pre-registered. The pre-registration deadline is March 21. The same $5 producer discount is available. Lunch is included in the registration fee.

For more information, contact Debbie Karbonik-Redmond or Lee Whitington at Prairie Swine Centre Inc. (PSCI) in Saskatoon at 1-800-741-7447, or Lange in Edmonton at (403)427-5319.

Contact: Art Lange
(403)427-5319

Weed Research Symposium March 29

New trends, topics and issues in weed research will be addressed at a one-day symposium March 29 in Edmonton.

"This symposium is designed to update participants on the latest information in weed research," says Camille Ducharme of Alberta Agriculture's Agronomy Unit. The former soil and crop management branch and the University of Alberta are sponsoring the symposium.

Topics on the day's agenda are herbicide carryover, integrated thistle control, a *Blue Book* update, water quality and herbicide performance, complimenting germination with seed vigor testing, opportunities for reducing herbicide rates, weed control in peas, herbicide resistance, a purple loosestrife update, the status of herbicides in groundwater and a *Tolerance of Forage Crops to Herbicides Manual* update.

"Speakers are from Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada research stations, the University of Saskatchewan and a local seed lab," notes Ducharme.

Myer Horowitz Theatre at the University of Alberta's Students' Union Building (SUB) is the symposium location.

Registration for the one-day symposium is $50 and includes lunch. The student rate is $20.

"The symposium is also part of herbicide mechanism of action training sessions," notes Ducharme. One session runs March 27 through 29 and the second, March 29 through 31. Both are full.

"This training session is geared for professional agricultural advisors and is designed to give a better understanding of how herbicides work, their selectivity and behavior in plants and soils," she notes.

For more information or to register for the weed symposium, contact Ducharme in Edmonton at (403)427-2530.

Contact: Camille Ducharme
(403)427-2530

Agri-News briefs

Early seaway opening plus for peas

The St. Lawrence Seaway is scheduled for one of its earliest starts in many years when it opens on March 24. The early opening should help improve feed pea bids says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "Shipments to both India and Europe should pick up," says Matthew Machielse. "Look for prices to return to the $4.60 level by late March, or earlier if commitments are unfilled," he adds. For more information, contact Machielse in Edmonton at (403)427-5387.

Weaker wheat market predicted

Early indications are for a weaker wheat market in the coming crop year as production in major exporting nations returns to more normal levels says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "One of those indications was the Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) first *Pool Return Outlook* for 1995-96," says Al Dooley. Durum wheat values were forecast to decline sharply as a result of weakening world import demand. A repeat Australian drought is unlikely. Reasonably attractive prices for Canadian wheat growers combined with rotational considerations should lead to larger wheat-seeded acreage this spring and a larger 1995 crop he adds. For more information contact Dooley in Edmonton at (403)427-5387.

Uneventful February for slaughter cattle markets

February was a relatively uneventful month in slaughter cattle markets says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. Prices dipped early in the month with a setback in the U.S. market and a firmer Canadian dollar. "U.S. markets rebounded by mid-month and reached the $75 mark for the second time in 1995 as seasonally tight cattle supplies supported prices," says Ron Gietz. As a result of the U.S. price rally, Alberta fed cattle prices moved into the mid to upper $90/cwt. range before falling late in the month. "A significant volume of fed calf slaughter is expected in March as feedlot managers take advantage of good rates of gain over the winter and attempt to cash in while prices are still strong," he adds. Pushing marketings ahead should help prevent a further widening of the already wide Alberta-U.S. price spread this spring. For more information, contact Doug Walkey in Edmonton at (403)427-5376.

AFAC seminar and annual meeting March 23

The Alberta Foundation for Animal Care (AFAC) will hold a seminar and its annual meeting March 23 in Edmonton. The day-long event is in Salon 1&2 of Northlands Agricom. Three speakers are featured. Jeff Goodwin, an expert on animal rights issues and their relationship to agriculture, will discuss addressing controversial issues. Goodwin is from Dallas, Texas. Alberta researcher Gilbert Proulx's topic is people and animals—ethics, rights and responsibilities. Ray Fenton, an AFAC board member, will share details from a review of transporting animals in Alberta. For more information, contact Susan Kitchen in Calgary at (403)777-0446.

Grain days in Alberta this week

The Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) *Grain Day'95* will be at four Alberta locations this week. The first meeting is today (March 13) in Rycroft at the Rycroft Community Hall. Tomorrow (March 14), the meeting is at the Westlock Community Hall. The final two meetings are at the Bashaw Community Centre on March 15 and the Blackie Community Centre on March 16. A CWB commissioner will speak at each meeting. Also included are presentations on payment and pricing options, a 1995-96 market outlook and a time for questions and comments. All meetings run from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch is provided.

Little Royal open house March 17-18

Lakeland College's annual *Little Royal Open House* runs March 17 and 18 at the Vermilion Campus. Agricultural events include a judging competition, horse show and rodeo. The judging competition on March 17 features Western Canadian university and college teams as well as Alberta and Saskatchewan 4-H teams. They'll judge crop and livestock classes. The horse show runs both days and includes special classes for second-year western horsemanship students and their project colts. The intercollegiate rodeo starts on Saturday evening (March 18) and continues the next afternoon. Also planned are a petting zoo featuring alpacas and horse-drawn wagon tours of the college's farm operations. For more information, contact Charman Franz in Vermilion at (403)853-8408.

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3 3286 51130 8179

Strategies for farm transfer on video

A 25-minute video follows one farm family as they journey through their family farm transfer. *Strategies for Your Family Farm Transfer* (819-8 VT) is available for loan from Alberta Agriculture's central multi-media library. "The Royal Bank production is a good introduction to two of our department videos on the same subject, *Who's Managing the Farm?* and *Operating the Family Farm – Joint Ventures*," says information officer Ken Blackley. Service fees for loans apply. For more information, write the Multi-Media Library, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Devonian offers horticulture programs

The University of Alberta Devonian Botanic Garden continues its education programs throughout March. Among the horticultural topics are native plants nursery on March 18, biodynamic gardening on March 19 and pruning on March 26. The Devonian Botanic Garden offers children's, family, adult, horticulture and nature study, and arts and crafts programs. For more information, a free brochure or to register, call the garden at (403)987-2064. The Devonian Botanic Garden is southwest of Edmonton on Highway 60, 5 km north of the town of Devon.

Foothills Forage Co-op AGM March 15

The Foothills Forage Co-op Association will hold its annual general meeting and seminar on March 15. The event will be held at the Highwood Memorial Centre in High River. For more information, contact Isabel McPherson in Calgary at (403)541-0911.

Engineering technology and research review March 21

Alberta Agriculture's engineering services branch presents a technology and research review March 21 at the Derrick Golf and Winter Club in Edmonton. The day-long event is broken into three themes with panel discussions – impacts of an expanding livestock industry, water resources issues effecting agriculture and the direction of agricultural machinery research. Department staff, producers and industry representatives are the speakers. To pre-register, call Darcy Fitzgerald in Edmonton at (403)427-2181 or toll-free through the government RITE line at 310-0000.

AGRI-NEWS

March 20, 1995

CANADIANA

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Research identifies more effective decontamination

Common cleaning products are key to more effective decontamination of protective clothing says Alberta Agriculture's protective clothing research associate.

University of Alberta researchers recently completed a study about effective pesticide decontamination of clothing, equipment and spills. As part of continuing research, the project team from the human ecology and chemistry departments found treatments ranging from bleach through automotive degreasers can neutralize a particular pesticide or decrease the residue it leaves behind.

"The basic rules for handling and washing protective clothing haven't changed. This research has provided new information to improve cleaning procedures of protective clothing," says Karen Malyk. [See related story.]

"And, in order to do the best job of decontaminating protective clothing you need to know the type of pesticide used and pretreat with the recommended cleaning product," she adds.

For example, 2,4-D pesticide formulations can be decontaminated more effectively with an automotive degreaser pre-wash treatment. Mechanics use such degreasers for cleaning. The commercial laundry treatment Spray'n Wash is recommended for the insecticide diazinon.

Chlorpyrifos, an insecticide, leaves a minimal residue of 0.1 per cent after a three-hour soak in warm water and chlorine bleach compared to 28 per cent (on polyester-cotton blend material) after a single wash.

"Also, consider using the same methods to deactivate the pesticide if there's a spill while handling it," notes Malyk.

Contact: *Karen Malyk*
(403)427-2412

Follow basic handling and washing rules

Each one of the dozen or so guidelines for handling and washing pesticide contaminated protective clothing and equipment is an important part of the safety equation says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Start by removing the contaminated clothing in the field or at the site, and not at your home. Put the clothing in a disposable plastic bag to take it to be washed. These are ways to reduce exposure to the rest of the family," says Karen Malyk, protective clothing research associate.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

"Always protect your hands when you're handling pesticides or pesticide contaminated clothing," she adds. Use unlined nitrile or neoprene gloves.

If the protective clothing is saturated, then don't wash it. Bag it and dispose of it in a landfill.

Another way to cut down on exposure is to clean the tractor steering wheel, its seat and truck seat she notes.

Protective clothing and equipment should be washed daily to minimize exposure.

Always wash the contaminated clothing separately from the rest of the family laundry to avoid transferring residue to other clothing.

"In most cases, it's recommended that you pre-soak the clothing before you wash it. The pre-soak depends on the type of pesticide involved. New research shows different treatments are more effective for specific pesticides," she says. [See related story.]

For example, 2,4-D pesticide formulations can be decontaminated more effectively with an automotive degreaser pre-wash treatment. The commercial laundry treatment Spray'n Wash is recommended for the insecticide diazinon.

A three-hour soak in chlorine bleach and warm water is best for chlorpyrifos, another type of insecticide.

"In most cases hot water is best," says Malyk. Fill your machine to the high water level, use a regular length cycle and use an extra heavy duty detergent as recommended for heavily soiled clothing. Repeat the wash.

When finished, run the empty washer through a full cycle with hot water and detergent.

Hang the clothing to line-dry. "This serves two purposes. It prevents contaminating your dryer and increases chemical breakdown of any pesticide residue," she notes.

Equipment such as hard hat, rubber boots, respirator and goggles should be washed daily with hot soapy water and rinsed. Wash both the inside and outside of gloves. Check for small holes, cracks and discoloration. Replace with a new pair if there are any of these signs of degradation.

"And don't ignore personal hygiene. Washing you is as important as your clothing and equipment," says Malyk.

Shower and shampoo hair after using pesticides. Washing your hands is also very important. Don't eat, drink, smoke or go to the bathroom unless you've washed your hands thoroughly first.

Brochures and a video about protective clothing are available at all Alberta Agriculture district offices.

Contact: *Karen Malyk*
(403)427-2412

Blue Book '95 more user friendly

Anyone who picks up Crop Protection With Chemicals 1995, better known as simply the *Blue Book*, will find it easier to use.

"We've redesigned the format to make it more user friendly and information easier to find," says Shaffeek Ali, the guide's editor and supervisor of preventative and regulatory services for Alberta Agriculture's pest prevention and regulatory unit.

The *Blue Book* is the most up-to-date pesticide reference guide of its kind. This product guide details the latest registered mixes, manufacturers, application tips, expected results, storage, first aid precautions, and weeds, diseases or pests controlled.

As usual, it includes new pesticide registrations, minor use changes and a complete guide to safety including protective clothing and first-aid.

Now exclusive to the guide are the annual oilseed and cereal seed treatment recommendations.

"All in all it's well worth its $10 price tag," says Ali. He and other Alberta Agriculture specialists use their expertise to compile the annual guide.

The *Blue Book* is available at all Alberta Agriculture district offices. It can be ordered from the department's Publications Office in Edmonton at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Add $2 for postage and handling plus GST. Make your cheque payable to the Provincial Treasurer.

Contact: *Shaffek Ali*
(403)427-7098

Program matches foals and mares

The Alberta Equine Industry Development Council has set up a formal nurse mare program to match foals with mares who've lost their own foals, or vice-versa.

"The council is encouraging horse owners who have a foal or mare die to register in the nurse mare program," says Les Burwash of Alberta Agriculture's horse industry section.

People who lose either a foal or mare can contact their local veterinarian; Peter Hurst, the provincial co-ordinator at (403)931-3840; or, Alberta Agriculture's horse industry section in Airdrie at (403)948-8532 or in Edmonton at (403)427-8906. [Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-1000 to connect to a RITE operator.] The nurse mare program will run through the spring foaling season.

"Speed and numbers will make the registry successful," says Burwash."The more people who register their need, the more likely

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a match can be made. Hopefully, with another horse owner in your area.

"Plus, how quickly you make the match is important to the horses The first 48 to 72 hours after the loss is a critical time. For example, a mare needs to be matched with another foal before she stops lactating," explains Burwash.

Contact: *Les Burwash* *(403)948-8532* *Bob Coleman* *(403)427-8906*

Animal welfare seminar part of AFAC annual meeting

The Alberta Foundation for Animal Care (AFAC) will hold an animal welfare seminar as part of its annual meeting later this week (March 23) in Edmonton.

Three speakers will share their expertise at the seminar in Salons 1&2 of Edmonton Northlands Agri-Com. The AFAC annual meeting will follow in the afternoon.

Jeff Goodwin, an expert in animal rights issues and their relationship to agriculture, will discuss how to address controversial issues. Goodwin is from Dallas, Texas.

"Dr. Goodwin believes accurate public perception of agriculture is essential to the well-being of both the agricultural producer and the consumer," says AFAC's Susan Kitchen.

Alberta researcher Gilbert Proulx's presentation is about people and animals and corresponding ethics, rights and responsibilities. Proulx has worked on the front-line with Canadian wildlife and fur industry groups. He'll share his insights about dealing with animal rights groups.

Ray Fenton will talk about the AFAC report reviewing humane animal transportation in the province. Fenton is head of Alberta Agriculture's animal welfare unit and also is an AFAC board member.

The review was conducted between May and December 1994. The report identifies issues and makes recommendations.

AFAC was formed in 1993 by Alberta's major poultry and livestock groups.

For more information about the seminar, annual meeting or AFAC, contact Kitchen in Calgary at (403)777-0446 or fax (403)777-0447.

Contact: *Dr. Ray Fenton* *(403)422-4844* *Susan Kitchen* *(403)777-0446*

Green Certificate goes west

A dozen Vancouver Island dairy farms went "green" last month when they started a pilot project based on Alberta Agriculture's Green Certificate Program.

After investigating its options, the B.C. Agricultural Workforce Policy Board decided to take a training program from off the shelf and pilot the hands-on Alberta program. The B.C. group purchased the Green Certificate dairy curriculum as well as Alberta Agriculture's dairy home study course.

It's a way for B.C. to establish their own training program without re-inventing the wheel says Robert Hornbrook, a Green Certificate program supervisor. Hornbrook has an on-going advisory role with the pilot project. It started with introducing the B.C. Agricultural Workforce Policy Board to Green Certificate last summer. In late January he did a producer orientation and will follow-up with evaluation workshops and final certification

In the pilot, producers and trainees will complete both the Green Certificate diary technician and the dairy production supervisor programs. The project will run from February through November.

Jennifer Dyson, manager of the Agricultural Workforce Policy Board, says her group has two objectives from the pilot: the feasibility of a Green Certificate-type program in B.C. and developing better human resource management skills

"Practical, hands-on training is the Green Certificate advantage," says Hornbrook. "At the same time, the program also teaches farmers how to be trainers. That's an increasingly important management skill. Both were selling points for the B.C. group."

The Green Certificate program will soon be making its way east he adds. Hornbrook is also involved in setting up a pilot project in Saskatchewan.

"We have started to market Green Certificate outside of Alberta. Other provinces are recognizing the unique on-the-job training Green Certificate offers and that this approach is a very cost-effective way to certify staff competence," he says.

Contact: *Robert Hornbrook* *(403)427-2171* *Jennifer Dyson* *(604)752-1564*

Green Certificate gets Mexican connection

Minus 20°C temperatures in late February were a rather chilly start to a five month practical farm work experience for four Mexican students.

A total of five students from the Instituto Technologico y d Estudios Superiorsies de Monterrey came to Alberta as part of the first *Canada/Mexico Green Certificate Project'95*. The program runs through mid-July.

"These post-secondary agricultural students will receive hands-on training at Alberta farms using the Green Certificate program. It's a supplement to their course work," says Doug Taylor, an Alberta Agriculture farm training supervisor.

Taylor is overseeing the project. He provided the students with a day and half orientation to the province and the agriculture industry when they arrived late last month. From there, they went to host farms to begin their training.

Cont'd on page 4

The students are involved in four different Green Certificate training programs – feedlot, field crop, cow/calf and dairy. Most were placed on farms in central Alberta.

The project establishes a training link between Mexico and Alberta. Besides giving the Mexican students skills and work experience, the project is also an opportunity to showcase Alberta agricultural products and technology for potential market and business development.

"There's also a two-way cultural exchange between the Mexican student and the Alberta family," notes Taylor.

For more information about the *Canada/Mexico Green Certificate Project '95*, contact Taylor in Edmonton at (403)427-2171. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Doug Taylor*
(403)427-2171

Think color now – plan your flower beds

If March snow gives you another case of winter blahs, turn your thoughts to your flower beds suggests an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Get some graph paper, colored pencils or pens, a seed catalogue or two and your imagination, then plan your summer flower beds," says Shelly Barkley, information officer at Alberta Agriculture's Crop Diversification Centre, South in Brooks.

"Planning this early also gives you an edge when it comes to ordering seeds," she adds.

Barkley suggests starting with graph paper and plotting out flower beds using a scale of one square equals one square foot of garden space. Note shady and sunny spots in the diagram.

"When you've mapped out the bed locations, you can start choosing plants and placing them," she says.

Seed catalogues or a reference book on annuals tell how high plants grow and how wide they might spread. As well, information about how far to space plants will make placing them easier.

Barkley also has some general recommendations about plant placement. Foundation planting should have the tallest plants in the background, graduating down to the shortest plants in front. Island flower beds should have the tallest plants in the center with plant height dropping as you move outwards. Again, the shortest plants are in front.

"Planting annuals in groups, or drifts, is more eye-catching than if you put them singly in rows," she adds.

Another way to add eye appeal and color is by blending vegetables with flowers says Barkley. "Don't be afraid of mixing vegetable crops into your flower beds. The foliage of beets or carrots can add interest and color to a flower border."

Once plants have been chosen, use colored pencils or pens to represent plant groupings on the graph paper plan.

"When your plan is complete, then you'll have a list of all the plants you need. The list will also help you decide what to seed directly, what bedding plants to start or to buy," says Barkley.

Another factor to keep in mind when planning is how much time and work the flower bed will take. "Think about both preparation and maintenance," she says.

Contact: *Shelley Barkley*
362-3391

Agri-News briefs

Olds College open house '95 April 1

Olds College invites people to be global pioneers and explore the possibilities of education in a truly global setting at its annual open house on April 1. The latest electronic and technical developments in agriculture, horticulture, business and the environment will be on display. The Canadian Intercollegiate Finals Rodeo is the same weekend. For more information, contact Shelley Brolsma at (403)556-4611.

Toll-free lines open for WGTA questions

Farmers who have questions about the Western Grain Transportation Act (WGTA) benefit payment can call a toll-free line. The number is 1-800-667-9962. The lines are open Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Saskatchewan time. Regina area residents can call 780-7232. Written requests for information can be sent to Box 4046, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 3R9.

Woodlot workshop March 22 & 23 in Valleyview

Ways of managing forested land for financial return while preserving the true value of the land is the subject of a two-day workshop in Valleyview March 22 and 23. Day one topics include planning how to use forested land, an inventory of forest features, guidelines and regulations, contract considerations and legal issues, field layout and harvesting systems, marketing timber from your land and landowner experiences. Day two is a field tour. Its subjects include forest condition and health, selective spruce harvesting, forest inventory, a small sawmill operation, forest succession, post-logging land use and large scale aspen harvesting. Registration is $30 and includes lunches, coffee breaks, the tour and a *Woodlot Management Guide*. For more information, call the Alberta Agriculture Valleyview district office at (403)524-5522 or 1-800-449-2105.

CAEFMS workshop March 26-28 in Edmonton

Opportunities for the agri-food sector from new information technology is the subject of a workshop sponsored by the Canadian Agricultural Economics and Farm Management Society March 26 through 28 in Edmonton. The workshop is designed to improve the understanding of the economic implications from developments in information technology. Demonstrations of Internet, FBMInet, Agri-Food Canada Electronic Information Service (ACEIS) and other on-line information systems will be featured. Registration is $150. Proceedings of the workshop will be published in the *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics*. For a copy of the agenda and registration information, contact Carlyle Ross, local arrangement chair, in Edmonton at (403)427-5396 or fax (403)427-5220; or, Bruce Huff in Ottawa at (613)995-5880, fax (613)995-6137 or e-mail huffbru@em.agr.ca.

Bed and Breakfast workshop April 12

A panel of experienced operators is one feature of *Open your doors to a bed and breakfast business* workshop April 12 in Bashaw. The seminar is designed for people interested in starting a bed and breakfast operation. Topics include regulations, licensing, start-up costs, what's involved in operating a bed and breakfast and assistance available. The $15 registration fee includes lunch. For more information, contact Lynn Stegman in Lacombe at (403)782-3301 or Marian Williams in Camrose at (403)679-1210. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

10th annual Aggie Days March 29 - April 1

Aggie Days will celebrate its 10th birthday March 29 through April 1 at Stampede Park's Agricultural Pavilion. Held in conjunction with the annual *Stampede Dairy Classic*, *Aggie Days* is organized by the agricultural education committee of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede. The event offers a hands-on, [illegible] opportunity to experience the world of Alberta agriculture. Tours for Calgary and rural area students are featured March 29 through 31. Educational programs are designed to provide students with an understanding of Alberta's many agricultural resources and the importance of these resources in their daily lives. April 1 is *Family Fun Day* starting at 10 a.m. and running to 4 p.m. At high noon, a new event will be launched. The trivia challenge will test local celebrities. Admission is free, however people are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to support the Salvation Army food bank. For more information, contact Lorna MacMillan at (403)261-9316 or 1-800-661-1260.

New horizons in food preparation and processing seminar

A food seminar designed to explore new horizons in food preparation and processing runs April 24 at Valleyview's Memorial Hall. Topics on the agenda include: marketing a food service business, food costing, menu engineering, food presentation and garnishing, food processing opportunities, different knives have different uses, creative ways to use Alberta grown products, making food attractive by using simple decorating techniques and just desserts. The final session features rural business people discussing business success and customer expectations of food preparation and presentation. Panelists include a baker, caterer, homemaker, restaurant operator, and bed and breakfast operator. For more information, contact Edie at the Valleyview Regional Economic Development Board (VREDB) at (403)524-3942 or fax (403)524-2727.

Practical horse management at LCC

Lethbridge Community College offers a course in practical horse management starting on April 4. For more information, contact John Calpas in Lethbridge at (403)320-3311.

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AGRI-NEWS

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Layering your way to better protection

Protecting yourself from exposure to pesticides has one basic rule: Wear protective clothing and equipment to minimize exposure.

"Wearing protective clothing is a farmer's main defense from exposure to pesticides. There are more specific details, but the most important thing is to protect yourself and your family from unnecessary exposure," says KarenMalyk, Alberta Agriculture's protective clothing research associate.

Multiple layers are the style for protective clothing. "We recommend multiple layers as the best way to protect yourself when handling pesticides. The more layers, the more protection you have," she adds.

Basic protective clothing includes a long sleeved shirt, full-length trousers, coveralls, unlined nitrile or neoprene gloves, neoprene overboots or long rubber boots and a wide brimmed hard hat with a plastic hat band.

The first layer is the long-sleeve shirt and full-length pants or jeans. Both limit pesticide exposure to skin. Cover these with cloth or disposable coveralls.

"Some people wear both for extra protection," she adds. "The disposable coverall has an extra benefit with a hood. This protects your head and makes the coveralls fit better." Before buying a disposable coverall, read the label and ask questions to make sure the coverall is recommended for the pesticide being used.

Gloves should fit properly to allow fine work such as adjusting sprayer nozzles. For added safety, form a cuff on the glove and wear it under the coverall sleeve. This prevents spills and splashes from running down arms. It's also recommended that whoever handles the pesticide clothing before it's washed wear protective gloves.

If protective clothing becomes saturated, don't try to wash it. Dispose in a plastic bag at an approved landfill site.

"Both gloves and disposable coveralls have a limited lifespan. If they rip, get holes or severe pilling, replace them," adds Malyk

High rubber boots or neoprene over boots are another must. Wear pants outside the boots so a spill doesn't run down the inside of the boot.

A hard hat is the final piece of basic protection. "This keeps spray off your head. A hard hat is also easy to clean with soap and water," she says. Extra protection for handling concentrates and particularly more toxic products includes a variety of other safety equipment such as water proof apron, goggles, face shield, ear plugs and respirators.

"Check the pesticide label. It will usually note the recommended protective clothing and equipment," recommends Malyk.

"If you have any questions, Alberta Agriculture has a number of helpful resources including brochures, a video and the annual

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
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Blue Book guide to crop protection," she adds. For information about those resources, contact your nearest Alberta Agriculture district office.

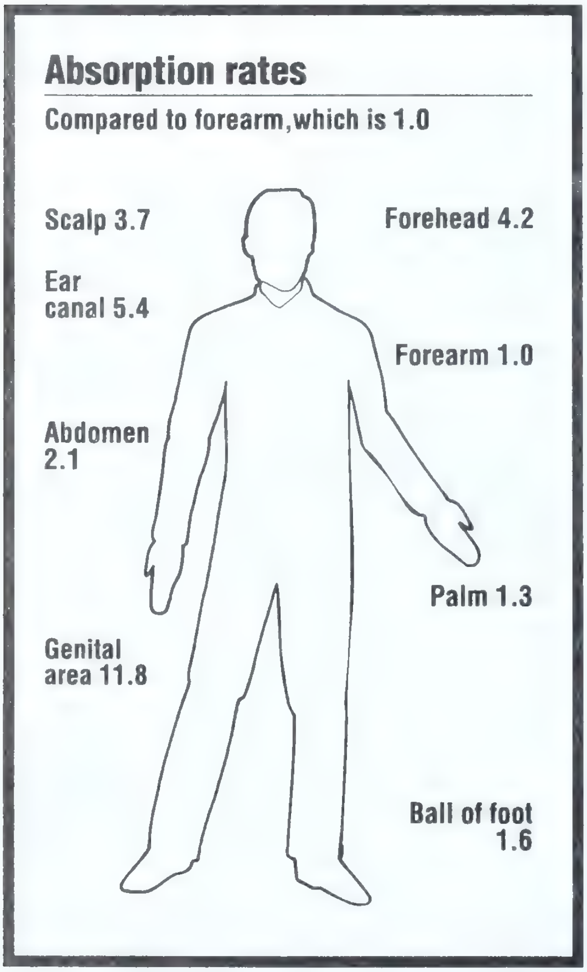
Contact: *Karen Malyk*
(403)427-2412

Limiting exposure protective clothing's aim

Protective clothing and layers of protective clothing are the most effective ways to guard against the most common way farmers are exposed to pesticides.

"Absorbing pesticides through the skin is the most common type of exposure. Plus, because absorption rates vary depending on the part of the body, protecting those areas becomes even more important," says Karen Malyk, Alberta Agriculture's protective clothing research associate. [See chart.]

Proper protective clothing reduces the amount of exposure. Generally, notes Malyk, the hands are the most exposed part of the body, and the greatest risk of exposure is when handling, mixing and loading undiluted pesticides.



"This makes gloves one of the basics of protective clothing," she says. Unlined nitrile or neoprene gloves are recommended for both the pesticide user and whoever handles pesticide-soiled clothing. Gloves should also fit properly so the wearer can make fine adjustments such as on a sprayer nozzle.

Additional layers are a way of preventing skin absorption, particularly in sensitive areas such as the forehead, scalp, ear canal and groin.

Wearing impermeable aprons when pouring and mixing concentrated pesticides is recommended to increase protection of the genital area.

"The genital area has an almost 12 times higher absorption rate than the forearm. For that reason, an extra layer of protection is an excellent safety precaution when mixing, pouring or reaching into the sprayer tank," she says. The apron can be a third layer over a pair of disposable and cloth coveralls.

Protecting your head is also very important as the scalp, forehead and ear canal absorption rates are from over three to more than five times as much as the forearm rate.

"The key is a hard hat with a plastic band, not a fabric cap," stresses Malyk. "As well, take out any cloth lining in the hard hat. And, clean the hat after each time you wear it."

Ear plugs and disposable coveralls with hoods are extra protection from exposure.

Malyk also reminds farmers not to wear contact lenses when applying pesticides. "Your contact lenses can also become a source of continual contamination, so don't wear them.

"Your best information sources about what protective clothing you should wear are the product label, the *Blue Book* and Alberta Agriculture brochures," she adds.

All protective clothing and equipment should be thoroughly washed after every use.

Brochures and a video about protective clothing are available from all Alberta Agriculture district offices.

Contact: *Karen Malyk*
(403)427-2412

What not to wear answers

Even more important than what protective clothing you should wear when handling pesticides is what you shouldn't wear says Alberta Agriculture's protective clothing research associate.

"The objective of protective clothing is to act as a barrier to skin absorption of pesticides. To prevent continued exposure, the recommended protective clothing is also easy to clean," says Karen Malyk.

"That's why farmers shouldn't wear fabric baseball caps; leather or cloth gloves, shoes or boots; leather belts and watchbands; natural rubber or plastic gloves; and, contact lenses. All can absorb

Cont'd on page 3

pesticides and be a continual source of contamination," adds Malyk.

"Even if you get the recommended wide-brimmed hard hat, you have to go one step further," she notes. "A plastic headband is a must. Tear out any cloth lining or sweat bands. We've had a report of someone who got a rash on his head because his hat's headband was cloth."

While fabric and leather are difficult to clean, natural rubber or plastic gloves should be avoided because they break down quickly.

"Don't forget to take out your contact lenses because you can never guarantee you have completely removed all contaminants," adds Malyk.

Contact: *Karen Malyk*
(403)427-2412

Opening the door to a bed and breakfast business

If a bed and breakfast operation beckons to you as a business opportunity, plan to attend a one-day seminar April 12 in Bashaw.

Open your doors to a bed and breakfast business features what aspiring bed and breakfast operators need to know about regulations, licensing, start up costs, other business considerations and how such a business affects home life.

The program includes an industry overview covering the background of bed and breakfast operations in Alberta. Helen Middleton, president of the Alberta Bed and Breakfast Association, will discuss the sector's current status as well as the association itself. Middleton operates McKenzie House Bed and Breakfast in Wainwright.

"A panel of experienced bed and breakfast operators will share their experience with seminar participants," says Marian Williams, Alberta Agriculture rural development specialist in Camrose and one of the seminar's organizers.

Panelists include May Kathol of the McIntosh Tea House Bed and Breakfast in Red Deer and Connie Barritt of Connie's Country Cocoon near Alix.

"One of the things prospective bed and breakfast operators have to consider is how their business will affect their lifestyle and changes they might need to make in their home. These issues and others will be discussed as well as business planning," adds Williams.

Joining Middleton as one of the seminar speakers is Dave Kidney, a tourism development consultant with Alberta Economic Development and Tourism. Kidney's area of expertise is bed and breakfast operations.

Seminar registration is $15 and the deadline is April 10. The seminar will be held at the Ag Building in Bashaw beginning at 9:30 a.m.

"One of the reasons we organized this seminar has to do with a need the Bashaw community has," notes Williams. "Bashaw hosts a number of agricultural activities and [illegible] need for more accommodation in the area. Bed and breakfast operations could fill the niche."

For more information about the bed and breakfast seminar, contact Williams in Camrose at (403)679-1210 or [illegible] in Lacombe at (403)782-3301. Government numbers are toll free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Marian Williams* *(403)679-1210*
Lynn Stegman *(403)782-3301*

All you want to know about meat goats

Your introduction to producing the world's most widely eaten red meat is a $15 investment away.

Meat Goats, a new Alberta Agriculture publication, overviews the production and management of meat goats. The more than 70-page booklet covers facilities, nutrition, reproduction, kidding, raising kids, health, record keeping and marketing.

"It's an elementary guide to goat keeping for new producers to help them operate a herd of four to more than a thousand. If you can grasp the production and management essentials for a small number of animals, they also apply to larger herds," says Sara Emond, *Meat Goats'* author.

"As a book for beginners, it can help people avoid some mistakes. While many different systems work for goats, the book gives some idea of the basic needs of the species," she adds. "As well, the booklet can be a handy reference for experienced goat producers."

Emond, who has 20 years experience with goat breeding, describes raising goats as labor intensive. "Goats are a lot of work and require attention."

The booklet features definitions, photographs, detailed diagrams, worksheets and a herd management calendar.

To order a copy of *Meat Goats*, send a cheque or money order for $18.19 (includes postage, handling and GST) to: Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Make the cheque payable to the Provincial Treasurer.

Order forms and a complete list of Alberta Agriculture publications are available from the publications office and all Alberta Agriculture district offices.

Contact: *Sara Emond*
(403)789-2279

New annual choices worth adding to your garden

Time spent browsing through seed catalogues looking at new annuals is one way to warm up a still cold, not quite spring day says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

In particular, Shelley Barkley recommends taking a look at the *All American Selections* winners for 1995. "These are new varieties that are tried across North America and then the very best are released," explains Barkley, information officer at the Crop Diversification Centre, South in Brooks.

"There are two new petunia varieties and a black-eyed susan that are really outstanding. All three are definitely worth adding to any flower garden plan," she adds.

Purple Wave and *Celebrity Chiffon Morn* are the two new petunia annuals.

The Purple Wave is a free flowering plant with single purple flowers five to seven cm in size. The plants grow about 10 to 15 cm tall and spread 50 to 100 cm.

"Purple Wave is a great addition to a hanging basket, window box or a planter," notes Barkley. "The trailing habit also adapts well to slopes or being trained to a trellis."

This petunia performs best with full sun and a rich soil. Space plants 30 cm apart and a metre between rows. It will tolerate heat, sun and severe weather.

The other new petunia, Celebrity Chiffon Morn, is tricolor and single flowering. The blossom is a light pastel pink with a cream and white throat. Like Purple Wave, it's suited to hanging baskets and planters as well as pots. "This petunia plant has a compact branching habitat growing to equal height and width, about 30 to 35 cm," she notes. When used in flower beds, plant 15 to 30 cm apart and leave 30 cm between rows.

"It does best in half-days of full sun and also is quite weather tolerant," she adds.

Indian Summer, a black-eyed susan, blooms through the season and is an excellent cut flower. The semi-double or single flowers are a deep golden-yellow, 15 to 22 cm across with wiry stems.

"One of its other advantages is that it tolerates a wide range of soils. However, it flowers best in full-sun," notes Barkley.

A tall plant, it reaches at least one metre in height and spreads between 60 cm to one metre. Plants should be spaced 30 to 60 cm apart in flower beds.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
(403)362-3391

4-H welcomes new sponsor

The Alberta 4-H movement has welcomed a new sponsor to its roster of supporters.

"Beatrice Food Inc. is the newest member of the *4-H Homemaking Leaders Update* team," says Penny Wilkes, provincial 4-H home economics specialist.

Held bi-annually, the next seminar is scheduled for October 1995. The update workshop is designed for 4-H leaders who want to expand their knowledge in both foods and nutrition, and clothing and textiles.

"These volunteer leaders share what they learn with 4-Hers involved in homemaking projects," notes Wilkes. Currently across the province, about 2,000 4-H members are enrolled in homemaking projects.

Beatrice Foods is a full-service dairy with operations in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. The company is well-known for its quality service and products as well as numerous contributions to charities throughout Alberta.

"We're very pleased Beatrice Foods has chosen to add 4-H to its list of community commitments. Our thanks to Beatrice on behalf of all the leaders and members involved in 4-H homemaking projects," says Wilkes.

Contact: Penny Wilkes
(403)427-2412

Agri-News briefs

Manure management workshop April 6

Manure management is the topic of a one-day workshop April 6 in Lacombe. The workshop is co-sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, the Canada-Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (CAESA) and Earthkeeping. The workshop begins at 10:30 a.m. and runs through 3:30 p.m. at the Lacombe agriculture building (5030-50 Street). For more information or to register, call Earthkeeping in Edmonton at (403)428-6981.

Shelterbelt/diversification workshop in Peace River

Field shelterbelts and diversification opportunities are the topics at a two-day workshop April 4 and 5 in Peace River. The field shelterbelt session is the afternoon of April 4. On the agenda are planning shelterbelts, farmstead shelterbelt design and the best tree varieties for the Peace Region. Diversification opportunities is all day April 5. U-pick berry, nursery tree, Christmas tree, ginseng and shelterbelt production will be discussed. A producer panel is also featured. Two-day registration is $35, April 4 only is $15 and April 5 is $25. The workshop takes place in the west ballroom of the Travellers Motor Hotel in Peace River. For more information contact Blair English, PFRA in Peace River, at (403)624-3386 or the Municipal District of Smoky River in Falher at (403)837-2222.

Waygu sales in April

Two Consolidated Spring Classic Waygu sales are slated for April. The Canadian sale is April 10 at Calgary Exhibition and Stampede's North Barn. The U.S. sale is April 22 at the Windmill Ranch in Cameron, Texas. For more information, contact Trish Seitz in Calgary at (403)252-8110 or 1-800-268-5569.

Sheep show preparation course for 4-Hers

As part of its sheep production courses, Olds College offers a one-day basics program for 4-H members. The course covers how to prepare and show sheep. All breeds will be discussed, as well as wool and meat. The course fee is $35. For more information, contact Olds College at (403)556-8245.

Sustainable Ag Association celebrates 10 years

Alberta's Sustainable Agriculture Association will celebrate its 10th anniversary of certifying organic food production next month. The association's annual meeting, celebration lunch and educational workshop will take place April 29 in Calgary. The event starts at 10 a.m. and runs through 3 p.m. at the Girl Guides of Canada building, 2188 Brownsea Dr. NW. Guest speakers include John O'Donovan from Alberta's Environmental Research Centre discussing approaches to weed management and Caesar Izauralde from the University of Alberta discussing the search for sustainable cropping systems. For more information, contact Penny Marshall in High River at (403)652-2650 or Raphaël Thierrin in Calgary at (403)686-3310.

Gardening courses flourish at Devonian Gardens

April is flush with a variety of gardening courses at the University of Alberta Devonian Botanic Garden. Horticultural courses include vegetable gardening, lilies, urban and acreage lawns, urban and suburban residential landscaping, landscape construction, the cottage garden, trails and paths for acreages and gardens, balcony boxes and patio pots, low maintenance gardening, roses, rock gardens, organic gardening, water gardens, hanging baskets and an introduction to grafting and budding. A gardening with children program begins on April 20. Course fees vary. For more information and a complete program brochure, call (403)987-2064. The Devonian Botanic Garden is located southwest of Edmonton, approximately five km north of Devon.

Video examines environmental toxicology

Finding the right balance between chemical use and human health is the subject of a 15-minute video available for loan from Alberta Agriculture's central multi-media library. *Environmental Toxicology – A Question of Balance* (304-9 VT) was produced by the Canadian Network of Toxicology Centres (CNTC). The CNTC says finding the correct balance is a question of being informed. The video outlines the CNTC's role and basic toxicology principles. Service fees for loans apply. For more information or to request a loan, write: Multi-Media Library, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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AGRI-NEWS

April 3, 1995

CANADIANA

MAY 1995

Agricultural exports set new record in '94

International trade statistics show Alberta's agri-food exports increased by nearly 28 per cent to a new record of $3.6 billion in 1994 say two Alberta Agriculture statisticians.

"The 1994 growth in agri-food exports was mostly attributable to substantial increases in shipments of several major commodities, including wheat, live cattle, beef, barley, canola seed and canola oil," notes Michael Adam, trade statistician with the market analysis and statistics branch.

Together, these commodities accounted for $2.6 billion or 72 per cent of Alberta's agri-food exports during the year.

Alberta's agri-food sector exported products to 131 countries. The U.S. continues to be the province's largest export market. [See related story on trading partners.]

"Value-added product exports continued to grow, rising by almost 24 per cent to $1.3 billion last year," adds Adam. The most significant value-added export products were beef, pork, canola oil and raw hides and skins. These four commodities made up nearly 60 per cent of total value-added shipments in 1994. Beef exports increased by 32 per cent in value to $385.9 million and 38 per cent in quantity to 131,408 tonnes. At $95.8 million, the export value of pork grew eight per cent over 1993, while quantity, at 32,966 tonnes, was up three per cent. Exports of raw hides and skins, at $121.8 million, increased more than 13 per cent.

There was a large increase in canola oil shipments. The export value rose 94 per cent from $68.3 million to $132.8 million. As well, export quantity reached 156,139 tonnes, compared to 99,629 in 1993, up about 57 per cent.

"It's worth noting that demand for other value-added commodities is also on the rise," says research assistant Barbara Pekalski Principal among these commodities are oilseed cake and meal, prepared animal feeds and tallow. Exports of these products rose by an average of 30 per cent between 1993 and 1994.

Exports of primary agricultural exports also climbed higher in 1994. They were up 30 per cent at a total value of $2.3 billion, compared to $1.8 billion in 1993.

Wheat was the largest single export commodity. Both quantity and value increased compared to 1993. The value of exported wheat, at $813.3 million, was up 23 per cent from $659.8 million in 1993. Export quantity, at 5.05 million tonnes, increased by more than 20 per cent.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Live cattle and calves were the second largest export commodity. Volume increased by 26,890 head, or about 6 per cent, to 501,108 in 1994. Export value was $601.5 million compared to $526.6 million in the previous year, up 14 per cent. Shipments to the United States accounted for most of this growth.

"Canola/rapeseed exports almost doubled in value," adds Pekalski. "Exports were up about 95 per cent from $237.8 million in 1993 to $462.9 million in 1994. Export quantity also increased, by 55 per cent, to 1.2 million tonnes.

Barley export sales went up about 13 per cent from $182.5 million in 1993 to nearly $206 million. However, the value of oat exports declined by 25 per cent to $52.8 million and quantity dropped by 23 per cent to 428,444 tonnes.

For more information, contact Adam or Pekalski in Edmonton at (403)427-4011. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact:	*Michael Adam*	*Barbara Pekalski*
	(403)427-4011	*(403)427-4011*

Alberta sends exports to 131 countries

In setting a new agri-food export record, Alberta sent products to 131 countries notes Alberta Agriculture's trade statistician.

"The United States, as always, was Alberta's largest export market accounting for 52 per cent of total agri-food exports out of Alberta. Those exports were worth $1.9 billion," says Michael Adam of the market analysis and statistics branch.

Exports to the USA increased about 31 per cent over 1993. This increase resulted from sharply higher exports of beef, live cattle and canola oil. "There were also notable increases in barley, wheat, raw hides and skins, and canola seed," adds research associate Barbara Pekalski.

Alberta's next largest markets included Japan, China and South Korea. Respectively they accounted for 14.3 per cent, 4.6 per cent and 4.1 per cent of the 1994 agri-food exports.

"Exports to these three Pacific Rim countries totalled $827.9 million. This total represents almost 84 per cent of the total shipments to Asian countries," she says.

The Japanese market, valued at $514 million in 1994, grew by 2 per cent. However, beef exports to that country rose almost 41 per cent to $24.5 million in 1994. Shipments of canola seed, which represented nearly 40 per cent of the total exports to Japan, increased by 18 per cent.

"On the downside, these export increases in Japan were offset by declines in wheat and barley exports. However, exports to China and South Korea each increased by more than 40 per cent, mainly due to larger purchases of wheat," notes Adam.

Total shipments to Western Europe reached a record high in 1994. The value of agri-food exports almost tripled from $107million in 1993 to $292.6 million. Markets with the largest increases between 1993 and 1994 were Belgium/Luxemburg, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Exports to South and Central America were up 18 per cent to $243.7 million, compared to $205.9 million in 1993. The most important markets in these regions were Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Venezuela.

"Chile recorded the largest increase in export revenue at 124 per cent," notes Pekalski. "The increase was due to significantly larger wheat shipments."

Mexico is Alberta's largest market in Central America. It accounted for more than 85 per cent, or $85.3 million, of Alberta's agricultural and food exports to the region in 1994.

"This total represented an increase of 34 per cent over 1993. Wheat and canola seed are traditionally the major export commodities," she adds.

Iran, at 169 per cent, and Algeria, at 98 per cent, both recorded significant export increases. Wheat, at $70.4 million and $47.5 million respectively, accounted for the majority of the total export value to these two countries.

Contact:	*Barbara Pekalski*	*Michael Adam*
	(403)427-4011	*(403)427-4011*

10th anniversary of awareness week, not conservation movement

"*...there is no substitute for food—nor soil...Every member of our society must be concerned and must strive to halt and reverse the deterioration of our soil and the environment as a whole.*" 1981 policy statement, Ontario Institute of Agrologists

While 1995 marks the 10th anniversary of a national awareness week recognizing the importance of conserving Canada's soil resource, the conservation movement began much longer than a decade ago.

During the 1930s chronic drought conditions across the Prairies coupled with persistent winds brought top soil's fragility into sharp focus. Late in the decade, a variety of programs were implemented aimed at improved farming methods and reduced soil degradation.

John Toogood, professor emeritus of the University of Alberta's soil science department, points out in *The Story of Soil and Water Conservation in Alberta* early homesteaders used farming methods they'd used in their homelands.

Discovering better practices for Alberta conditions took several years. However, soil conservation's profile remained low until the 1980s when severe, widespread drought again blanketed Western Canada. This second devastating drought within 50 years brought more concentrated attention on the resource Toogood describes as a "precious heritage" leading an "unobtrusive existence".

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Soil has been more in the spotlight in the past decade. National Soil Conservation Week, established in 1985, is one reason Initiated jointly by federal and provincial governments, the awareness week was designed to educate the public with an understanding how important soil is to all Canadians

In the agricultural community, soil conservation has developed a year-round presence. Government, industry and farmers joined efforts for more comprehensive research and practical on-farm testing. In Alberta, successive federal-provincial agreements contributed funding for both, as well as awareness activities

"The results of past programs and the current CAESA agreement can be seen in fields around the province," says John Hermans, head of Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch.

By 1987, 45 per cent of Alberta farmers had adopted some kind of conservation strategy. In the next five years, the number jumped to 75 per cent of farmers involved in some form of soil conservation on the farm. For example, some 2,000 miles of shelterbelt trees have been planted in the last decade. That's roughly the distance from Calgary to Toronto.

"Market research done in 1994 by Monsanto also points to changed farming practices. Direct seeding, for example, has grown from around one million acres in 1992 to over six million acres direct seeded last year in Alberta," notes Hermans. However, just over 60 per cent of Alberta farmland still receives conventional tillage, three or more cultivation passes.

The newly formed Alberta Reduced Tillage Initiative (ARTI) hopes it can decrease the number of conventionally tilled acres. ARTI is a partnership of industry, government, the Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) and Olds College. Reduced tillage is a cropping system that allows farmers to plant new crops directly into the previous year's crop stubble with a minimum of soil disturbance to conserve both soil and water.

ARTI has set measures for its success. The objectives of the three-year program are to: increase direct seeding of annual crops by 1.5 million acres per year; accelerate the reduction in traditional summerfallow techniques by 300,000 acres per year; and, increase adoption of reduced tillage summerfallow practices by 200,000 acres per year.

ARTI's goals are far beyond a time when tradition and aesthetics—black summerfallow free from crop residue—seemed to be the norm says Hermans. "Today, we're at the point where economics and societal responsibilities far outweigh aesthetics. Tradition is changing with the generations, and the new one is setting its own, different tradition.

"The change can't just come from farmers," he adds. "All Albertans have the challenge to protect, maintain and enhance our soil resources for future generations. As the awareness week theme emphasizes, soil conservation is in all our hands."

National Soil Conservation Week is April 2 through 8 in 1995.

Contact: *John Hermans*
(403)422-4385

Editors and News Directors. A complete package of National Soil Conservation Week stories and materials was mailed to Alberta media outlets and is available on EMBnet and AB NA bulletin boards. If you didn't receive a package or would like further information, contact Tamara Lewis in Edmonton at (403)422-4385.

New number for Grain Commission info line

The Alberta Grain Commission information line changed to a new telephone service and number on April 1.

The new number is (403)422-3591. "This number is accessible through the provincial RITE network," notes David Walker, the commission's executive secretary.

Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator during office hours. "This still enables farmers to call the information line toll-free even though we had to remove the 1-800 number as a cost saving measure," says Walker.

The long-time direct commission line number, (403)436-4941, can still be used. The commission's information line is open 24-hours a day, seven days a week. To use the line's information menu, requires a touch-tone phone.

"Farmers are using the line for market information," adds Walker. The commission's information line received over 50,000 calls in the last 12 months, or over 1,000 calls per week.

"Use is actually increasing," notes Walker. "Calls are running about 20 per cent higher than year ago levels."

The Alberta Grain Commission's information line provides access to time sensitive market reports. This includes elevator and processor prices for grains and oilseeds, futures prices, options prices from the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange, and regional feedlot and feedmill prices. Elevator and futures prices are updated twice daily and options once. Regional feedmill and feedlot prices are updated weekly.

Alberta Agriculture's market analysis and statistics branch also provides weekly market commentaries for the line on grains, oilseeds, special crops and livestock.

Contact: *David Walker*
(403)427-7329

Sign, seal and deliver your food product

If you're a new food processor confused by labelling lingo, packaging problems and marketing mazes, a one-day seminar April 11 in Spruce Grove could help you get your product signed, sealed and delivered.

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"Launching a new food product is an involved process, more involved than some people might think," says Gail Lemke, Alberta Agriculture rural development specialist in Stony Plain.

"This *Signed, Sealed and Delivered* seminar features speakers who will lead the new food processor through three major components in bringing a new product to market—labelling, packaging and marketing," she adds.

Karen Goad will handle the first element, product labelling. She'll discuss regulations, realities and alternatives.

"Labels are the personal signature of a product," explains the Alberta Agriculture agri-food development consultant. "You need it to convey your specific message. At the same time there are regulations you must follow."

The "sealed" portion of the seminar features new packaging methods with a focus on small processors. The speaker is Murray Fierheller, a project co-ordinator with Alberta Agriculture's Food Processing and Development Centre in Leduc.

Fierheller has worked extensively with modified atmosphere packaging (MAP) of a wide range of foods from sandwiches and fresh pasta to cooked entrées and fresh meats. His work also includes vacuum packaging and hot fill processing.

"The final seminar session is about how to deliver your product to consumers," notes Lemke. "Brian Wrightson, program head of NAIT's marketing program, will get participants started on a marketing plan."

Wrightson also is a principal with Customer Won, a consulting firm that helps business managers develop a customer focus. Typical helps include customer need analysis, training, service quality measurement and system evaluation.

Seminar registration is $25. The registration deadline is April 6. For more information about *Signed, Sealed and Delivered*, contact Lemke in Stony Plain at (403)963-6101.

Contact: *Gail Lemke*
(403)963-6101

Seminar explores new food preparation and processing horizons

Restaurateurs, caterers, homemakers, self-proclaimed gourmet cooks, bed and breakfast operators and anyone interested in serving quality food at affordable costs are invited to the first food seminar in northwestern Alberta April 24 in Valleyview.

"The *Food Seminar* was designed to create awareness about the importance of attractively prepared food and provide examples of how to exceed customers'—or guests'—expectations on a shoestring budget. Our goal is to show people that those who dare to be creative and develop good marketing skills can quickly become successful," says Suzanne Randall, Alberta Agriculture rural development specialist in Valleyview.

"The seminar is also about career and business opportunities that can be started from your home," she adds. "A panel of rural experts will share their experience and ideas to conclude the seminar program."

Gail Hall of Gourmet Goodies in Edmonton will open the seminar with a presentation covering marketing a food service business, food costing, menu engineering, and food presentation and garnishing. Hall started her business at home six years ago and now operates a commercial kitchen with 16 full-time staff.

Food processing opportunities will be discussed by Karen Goad, an Alberta Agriculture agri-food development consultant. "This will be an overview of unique resources of this region and also opportunities from jam making to exotic livestock entrées," she says.

Part of her presentation will be a display of Peace region processors and producers of speciality food items. Goad will describe the business and or product.

"Hopefully this will help people connect, see niches or see niches that could be filled," she adds.

Creative ways of using Alberta grown products such as blueberries, honey, wild game and mushrooms is Normand Campbell's topic. Campbell, originally from the Falher area, operates Normand's, a French cuisine restaurant in Edmonton.

Attractive food presentation will also be demonstrated by Russell Hudson and cooking students from Northern Lights College in Dawson Creek, B.C. They'll show simple decorating techniques to make food look more appealing.

Hudson will also demonstrate how different knives have different uses. He'll teach participants how and when to use the proper knife for julienne, dicing and other cutting techniques.

"This session is a real must for the time-strapped and budget conscious caterer, restaurateur or homemaker," notes Randall.

Gourmet caterer Jeanne McMillan-Moore will give seminar participants their "just desserts". The Whitecourt-based caterer will share some techniques for creative catering and how these techniques can enhance business by increasing sales and customer satisfaction.

"Registration is a bargain at $30 and only $15 for students. Pre-registration is required," notes Randall. There's also an early bird draw for registration before April 7. The registration deadline is April 17.

The seminar also features a mini-trade show with door prizes. Doors at the Valleyview Memorial Hall open at 7 a.m. with the seminar starting at 8:30 a.m.

For more information contact Edie Fpagrud at the Valleyview Regional Economic Development Board (VREDB) at (403)524-3942 or fax (403)524-2727. Registration forms are also available at Alberta Agriculture district offices in Grande Prairie, High Prairie and Valleyview.

Contact: *Suzanne Randall* *Edie Fpagrud*
(403)524-3301 *(403)524-3942*

'94 NISA forms going out

Current Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) holders will soon get 1994 application forms and guide packages in the mail.

"Mailing started in mid-March, about the same time as 1993 processing neared completion," says Beverly Pearson of Alberta Agriculture's central program support division.

Currently most grains, special crops, horticulture and ranch fur production are eligible for NISA benefits. "No new commodities will be added to the NISA program for the 1994 stabilization year," she adds.

However, farm-fed co-efficients won't be available for swine, sheep and cattle in 1994. "You are still required to list your sales and purchase of livestock," she notes.

All income and expenses from a farm operation are required to determine annual gross margin. The NISA administration evaluates changes in gross margin to determine if a farmer is eligible for a triggered withdrawal.

The non-penalty NISA application deadline for 1994 is July 31, 1995. Applications are accepted until December 31, 1995 with a five per cent monthly reduction in deposit entitlements as the penalty.

Pearson has a tip related to AGR-1 slips from NISA for farmers filling out their 1994 tax return. "Farmers should already have this slip that states taxable or investment income for 1994. You must reconcile this slip with your 1994 income tax records."

In most cases, AGR-1s include the $40 administration cost share (ACS) taken from the taxable side of NISA accounts. "You will have to report the $40 as investment income but also be sure you claim a $40 eligible expense on your tax return," she adds.

More than 28,000 Alberta farmers participated in the 1993 NISA program year. They deposited $25.1 million in their NISA accounts and requested $10.3 million in withdrawals.

For more information about the NISA program or your NISA account, call Pearson at 1-800-232-9479 or the NISA administration in Winnipeg at 1-800-665-6472.

Contact: *Beverly Pearson*
(403)422-5672

Protective clothing resources at your district office

A wide array of self-help information about protective clothing is available at Alberta Agriculture district offices.

"There are three primary sources—a comprehensive brochure, a video and the annual *Blue Book*," notes Karen Malyk, Alberta Agriculture's protective clothing research associate.

Handling pesticides: Are you protected? (Homedex 1353-90) outlines minimum and extra layers of protective clothing with pictures and written details, describes exposure and levels of pesticide toxicity and how to take care of protective clothing and equipment.

Don't Gamble with Pesticides is a department-produced video about protective clothing. The 18-minute video is available for loan from all Alberta Agriculture district offices.

"As well as detailing what to use as protective clothing, the video also discusses personal hygiene, levels of toxicity and potential acute and chronic effects of pesticides," notes Malyk.

Alberta Agriculture's *Blue Book*, an annual guide to chemical crop protection, also includes sections on safety precautions and first aid. The guide takes a thorough look at warning symbols, reducing exposure and recommended protective clothing and equipment. It also describes symptoms of poisoning, the poison information telephone numbers and telephone numbers of treatment centres with emergency telephone lines.

"There are also related brochures and videos about washing protective clothing and equipment, and other aspects of safe pesticide handling and application," notes Malyk. "Check the department's annual multi-media library catalogue and publications list."

Contact: *Karen Malyk*
(403)427-2412

Perennial borders, the garnish on your yard

Like the icing on a cake or a garnish on your plate, a perennial border is a finishing touch to make your yard more attractive says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"As an added bonus, your perennial border will reward your planning with beauty and color for years to come," says Shelley Barkley, information officer at the Crop Diversification Centre, South in Brooks.

"You have to plan in two separate areas—the site and then the type of border given the site conditions. By assessing the site you will make the gardening easier because you've matched plants to growing conditions," she adds.

First, consider whether the site will have full sun, shade or a mix of sun and shade. "If you're planning in the winter or even early spring, remember the sun will have a different location in the sky come June and July," she notes.

Also remember to take into account fences and buildings that could shade the perennial bed's plants.

Consider the area's soil—wet, normal or dry. "Many plants hate to have wet feet, so soil conditions are important. As is whether the soil texture is sandy, clay or silty, or a mixture.

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"Clay soils can be wet and slow to warm up in the spring. Sandy soils are drier and warm up quickly. Adding organic matter will help sandy soils hold moisture and clay soils to drain," explains Barkley.

Soil pH is another factor. Some plants prefer acidic soils and are a challenge to grow in an alkaline soil. Barkley recommends a soil test to access pH as well as potential fertilizer needs.

Another key component in planning a perennial bed is the prevailing wind in both summer and winter. Summer winds can damage taller perennials such as peonies and delphiniums as well as bruise and tear delicate flowers. Winter winds effect where snow stays and lies in the yard.

Finally, Barkley recommends making sure the site you choose can be easily watered and can be reached by a hose.

"Once you've assessed your yard and know what you have to work within, then you can think about the border itself," says Barkley.

A traditional border has all herbaceous perennials. A mixed border includes shrubs, annuals and bulbs. Formal gardens have geometric shapes. Informal gardens have soft curves and a natural look.

"When you consider type, also think about where the border will be viewed from—the kitchen window, a patio or deck. Are there trees and shrubs you want to tie perennial flower colors with? The effect you want from your border means looking beyond the border itself to the rest of the yard," she says.

Selecting perennial plants involves choosing colors, sizes, foliage. Plant placement also is important to the border's overall look. [See separate story.]

"A well-planned perennial border will change throughout the growing season and can provide a sense of balance to your yard. You achieve this through the perennials you pick for your border and where you place them in the border," adds Barkley.

Contact: *Shelley Barkley*
(403)362-3391

Plan for change in perennial border

A well-planned perennial border will constantly change providing a variety of colors and textures throughout the growing season.

"Few perennials will flower through the entire season, so by mixing plants you can have color from early spring to late fall," says Shelley Barkley of Alberta Agriculture's Crop Diversification Centre, South in Brooks.

Barkley says plants can be chosen for a number of qualities. These include the time and color of their bloom, flower texture, foliage, growth habit, height and growing requirements.

"Remember plants with distinctive foliage are as important as the flowering ones since the foliage adds interest," adds Barkley.

Where plants are placed also affect the border's look. Barkley advises putting the smallest plants in the front and graduating to the tallest in the back or centre of the bed. One tip is to blend different plant heights to avoid noticeable steps.

"You also place perennials differently than do you annuals," she says. Annuals are usually planted in drifts of masses. Perennials are better planted singly or in groups of three, five or seven.

"Peonies seem to look best when planted singly. Iris lend themselves to planting in clumps of three or five," she explains. "Also, try to clump all the same flower color as this is calming to the eye."

Borders can achieve a mood. "A well-planned border gives a feeling of peacefulness through balance," she says. "This balance has a number of elements."

First, keep the perennial border in proportion with the surrounding yard and plants in scale with each other. Repeating elements in the design such as texture, shape and color adds to overall harmony. The same plant can be repeated or different plants with a similar flower color, texture or shape.

"Elements on either side of the border's centre don't have to be exactly the same plants. They should be similar in visual size. A clump of plants on one side can balance the visual weight of a large plant on the other side," she notes.

"There are also a few tricks you can use to fool the eye," Barkley adds. Finer textured plants make a small border seem larger by giving the eye more to look at. In a small border, use few accents as too many are hard for the eye to take in. Bold plants are best in a large border.

Blue, blue-green and violet seem to recede so give the border a bigger look. The opposite is true of red and orange. White, grey or silver buffer clashing colors. They also brighten up a dark or heavy textured planting.

Contact: *Shelley Barkley*
(403)362-3391

Agri-News briefs

Equine information day April 22

The first annual *Equine Information Day* will be held April 22 at the Westerner Exposition's Look Out Room. Sponsored by the Alberta Equine Industry Council, the information day features a review of the council's first year of activities. Panel presentations will include information about a new equine insurance package, industry employment opportunities, a nurse mare registry and equine welfare initiatives. The program runs from 1 through 4 p.m. A wine and cheese social follows. There is no admission charge, however people are encouraged to support the council by buying a membership. For more information, contact Nan Morrison, council secretary, in Calgary at (403)931-2202.

Taber bean plant opens

Alberta Pool's new multi-million dollar bean processing plant in Taber officially opened its doors last month. The new plant offers bean growers advanced technology, expertise and services in bean crop management. The Taber plant will operate in conjunction with the Pool's Bow Island plant. The Bow Island facility has processed and marketed edible dry beans in Alberta since 1974. Together, the plants form Alberta Pool's bean-business unit (BBU) The new plant will allow Alberta Pool to contract an additional 20,000 acres of beans and accommodate 200 new contract growers. "We're actively looking for additional bean acres to reach full utilization of 40,000 acres at both plants, and we've developed some flexible contracting programs that should appeal to a lot of farmers," says Larry Slywka, the Taber plant manager. For more information, contact Slywka in Taber at (403)223-1772 or Ed White in Bow Island at (403)545-2227.

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AGRI-NEWS

April 10, 1995

CANADIANA

MAY 5 1995

Optimism for '95-'96 canola crop

Relatively high prices offered for both the old and new canola crop will support high canola acreage this crop year says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"It's becoming increasingly likely seeded canola acreage this spring won't be all that different from a year ago. Despite weed and disease concerns, prices offered for old and new canola will support higher acreage," says Al Dooley of the market analysis and statistics branch.

"High prices will also help farm managers afford to deal with agronomic concerns," he adds.

On the processing side, cash crush margins are reported as relatively tight. "This is the negative side of the market, the possibility of processing facilities closing until the new crop year and reducing a major demand for canola seed," says Dooley.

Increased palm oil production in Malaysia and Indonesia plus South American soybean processing will also pressure vegetable oil prices between April and September.

"There are positives, too," adds Dooley. "The weak Canadian dollar and strong Chinese interest in vegetable oils."

Oilseed markets were generally higher in March. Canola was up supported by the weak Canadian dollar. Flaxseed wasn't.

"Current flaxseed buying interest from European customers remains slow," notes Dooley. "However, in early March flaxseed exports were running 45 per cent ahead of last year's pace."

Contact: Al Dooley
(403)427-5387

Easter boost to lamb market

Premium prices are likely for new crop lambs ready for the Easter season says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Slaughter lamb prices at Canada West Foods in Innisfail regained the $2 to $4/cwt. losses incurred during February and stabilized near $185/cwt. in early March. Alberta slaughter lamb prices are trending toward the $195/cwt. range and premiums are being offered for Easter season lamb," says Don Hansen of the market analysis and statistics branch.

"Toward the end of April, prices will likely stabilize near current levels," he adds.

Hansen reminds producers that these are average prices and generally exclude contract prices. "Canada West Foods is still targeting fresh lamb markets and requires lambs in different grade bands for these sales. The Innisfail plant continues to offer contracts to fill particular fresh lamb markets.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

"It's important producers know the product they have to sell and the contract requirements. Ensure market access by contacting order buyers, feedlots and packers. You can get premium prices if you finish the type of lambs that are in demand. Marketing alternatives are limited and you could risk significant price discounts," he adds.

Contact: *Don Hansen*
(403)427-4011

Hog prices on five-year average

Alberta hog prices lost about 11 cents a pound between mid-February and the end of March, but the news isn't as bad as it sounds says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Prices are currently right on the five-year average. While they are 10 per cent under 1994 prices, they are still significantly better than those in 1992," says Doug Walkey.

Alberta hog slaughter is running two to three per cent higher than in 1994. Slaughter weights are over four kg heavier than year ago values. "Those two facts tell the story of why our prices are a bit lower, but not why March prices are dropping away from the seasonal trend," he says.

The explanation lays south of the border in some "cold" truth he adds. "U.S. hog slaughter was running about nine per cent above last year. A gradual rise in price toward the $40/cwt. level was good news. Then the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) *Cold Storage Report* threw cold water on the optimism," explains Walkey.

The report said there were 1.5 million pounds more pork bellies in the freezer than even the more pessimistic industry estimates. Bacon demand was lower than expected and the market reacted—sharply and down.

"For Alberta producers that translates into prices moving slightly downward into early April, then returning to seasonal patterns as hog supplies thin out into the summer," he says.

Walkey forecasts average April prices ($/kg, dressed) at just over $1.37 moving to $1.52 in May and ten cents higher in June.

Contact: *Doug Walkey*
(403)427-5376

More barley seeded this year?

Strong barley prices are prompting predictions that seeded acreage will increase this crop year says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"One early estimate of Canadian barley acreage for 1995 is 10.9 million acres, up from 10.7 million last year," says Al Dooley, of the market analysis and statistics branch.

"With the current new crop price levels for both feed and malting barley, an increase of this magnitude certainly wouldn't be surprising," he adds.

Local barley markets have been supported by estimates of tight barley stocks at the end of the current season and uncertainties about what farmers will seed this spring.

The increase in the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) March Pool Return Outlook (PRO) for both feed and two-row designated barley is also encouraging news says Dooley. "At the end of March, November western barley futures were at life-of-contract highs. However, many in the trade believe that barley prices are out of line with other cereal prices.

"Some adjustments may be in order with $140 per tonne (basis the May future) as a possible sell-off point. But, the seeding report and spring weather conditions will tell the tale," he adds.

Oats are heading the opposite direction to barley. Oat area is forecast to fall by 25 per cent from 1994 levels. "This isn't a surprise given how stagnant oat prices have been until recently," notes Dooley. "Price increases over the next few weeks could moderate this drop, but there has been little change in market fundamentals that would push values higher."

Contact: *Al Dooley*
(403)427-5387

Lid coming down on alfalfa seed imports

Current exchange rates and a rebound in 1994 production should keep a lid on alfalfa seed imports this year says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Imports from the U.S. will likely drop by 50 per cent compared to last year's levels. Exchange rates will be a significant factor in 1995. Canadian production will simply be more competitive for buyers on both sides of the border," says Matthew Machielse of the market analysis and statistics branch.

Exports to the U.S. will also play a role in alfalfa seed prices. "Exports have risen almost 60 per cent comparing the July to December periods of 1993 and 1994. Expectations are Canada will export 4,000 tonnes of alfalfa seed to the U.S. during 1994-95," he says.

Prices are falling in both countries he notes. Better production in 1994 has started to work against alfalfa seed prices. Back-to-back poor crops in 1992 and 1993 had supported prices and made stocks tight.

"With similar crop results to 1994, prices will likely fall an additional 15 to 20 cents per pound late in 1995. But it will take another year of above average production in both countries to cause further price drops," says Machielse.

Cont'd on page 3

However, pedigreed prices should remain at current levels over the medium term he adds. Most traders are bidding between $1.10 and $1.20 per pound.

In the longer-term, increased widespread use of alfalfa for grazing in both Canada and the U.S. should increase demand levels and support prices.

Contact: Matthew Machielse
(403)427-5387

Dugout pumping equipment available

With the lack of snow in many areas of the province this year, producers are starting to book dugout pumping equipment to ensure an adequate supply of water for the coming year says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"The dugout pumping program was designed to provide producers with a method to move water a few miles from a source to a dugout," says Darcy Fitzgerald, an agrologist with the engineering services branch.

"Through the program, producers are able to rent pumping equipment for both domestic and livestock water supply needs during times of drought or other adverse water shortage situations," he adds.

New rental fees for the equipment went into effect on January 1, 1995. The new unit rate is up from $400 to $500 per day. A unit consists of one pump and one trailer of pipe (one mile of six inch pipe). Each additional pump costs $100 per day and each additional trailer of pipe is rented for $150 per day. The high capacity unit with pump and one mile of eight inch pipe is available at a cost of $800 per day.

Fitzgerald notes that the equipment was available after April 1.

For more information on the dugout pumping program, contact your Alberta Agriculture's district office or the engineering services branch in Edmonton at (403)427-2181. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Darcy Fitzgerald
(403)427-2181

Cattle rustlers beware

Cattle rustlers in Alberta will now have two of Canada's finest on their trail, along with Alberta's long-time finest brand inspectors.

"The hiring of a second Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) livestock investigator has been approved," says Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's minister

The department's cost for each RCMP officer is $83,000, the 70 per cent provincial portion of the $106,000 total man-year cost. "The price is well worth it to safeguard Alberta's five million cattle," says Paszkowski

Eight years of lobbying by the department and the livestock industry to protect Alberta's livestock assets is behind the re-instatement of the much-needed investigators. In 1987 the RCMP cut costs dramatically and eliminated all five Alberta RCMP livestock investigators.

Following approval for one RCMP position in [illegible], Corporal [illegible] Smetaniuk was contracted by the department's livestock marketing services branch to investigate cattle thefts. Based in Calgary, Cpl. Smetaniuk has assisted in investigating over 1,400 reported stolen or missing livestock incidents in Alberta during 1994.

His contributions are very beneficial, but the caseload for the entire province is onerous. The recently approved second position will be filled as soon as an officer with experience in criminal livestock investigations can be found. The new RCMP livestock investigator will be based in Edmonton and will be responsible for assisting in livestock cases north of Red Deer.

"With RCMP investigators who are knowledgeable about the cattle business, Alberta cattle producers feel more confident about reporting missing or stolen animals," says Paszkowski.

"The investigators will rely heavily on our brand inspectors' support when investigating criminal livestock activities," he adds.

Sharing the crime workload between two officers will also allow more time for involvement in the rural Crime Watch program, assisting the meat inspection branch in prosecution of illegal slaughter cases and working with department brand inspectors at cattle auctions.

Since Cpl. Smetaniuk was hired, several cattle theft cases were re-opened and charges laid based on the officer's recommendations. As well, through the department's efforts, a crown prosecutor in Calgary who is knowledgeable about the livestock industry has been designated to prosecute criminal livestock cases there.

Contact:	*Dwight Dibben or Brian Hlus*	*Cliff Munroe*
	Executive assistants	*Livestock marketing*
	to the minister	*services branch*
	(403)427-2137	*(403)427-4241*

Protect yourself when handling veterinary drugs, too

Protective clothing and equipment aren't limited to handling and using crop pesticides says Alberta Agriculture's protective clothing research associate.

"Everyone who handles veterinary drugs and livestock insecticides should also be aware of potential risks to themselves and others," says Karen Malyk. "That means reading the product label for both safety warnings and first aid procedures."

Cont'd on page 4

Humans can be exposed to veterinary drugs or insecticides four different ways—through skin, mouth, nose and body tissue.

Injection into human tissue is the most common veterinary drug related accident. "Drugs can cause serious reactions. Reduce your chance of accidental injection by wearing extra protection such as coveralls and gloves," she says.

"Accidents don't just occur while administering veterinary drugs, but also during disposal," she adds. Discard old or bent needles, scalpels and bottles in a hard plastic container with a lid, and keep separate from regular garbage. This helps to eliminate other potential accidents.

Some products can be absorbed into the skin quite quickly. "Many pour-on insecticides are specifically designed to absorb quickly into an animals's skin," adds Malyk.

In general, the absorption rates depends on the drug's toxicity and what part of the body is exposed. For example, the forehead, scalp and genital area all have much higher absorption rates than the forearm.

"To protect yourself, follow the label directions and wear extra protection such as coveralls, nitrile gloves and goggles," recommends Malyk.

Some veterinary products can be absorbed rapidly in the digestive tract and even be fatal. "For safety, avoid eating until you wash your hands thoroughly after using a veterinary drug or insecticide. Also, keep all products away from children and in a locked storage area away from food or feed," she advises.

Dust masks, respirators and a well-ventilated work areas are important preventative measures when working with dusts, powders and sprays. These drugs can be harmful or irritating if inhaled into the lungs.

"First aid procedures vary depending on the type of exposure. In all cases, immediately call a doctor or the POISON information line at 1-800-332-1414," says Malyk.

Contact: *Karen Malyk*
(403)427-2412

Conserving soil in your backyard

Soil erosion isn't limited to farmers' fields, it can happen in your backyard.

"Farmers aren't the only people who must be responsible stewards of land and soil," says Barb Shackel-Hardman, Alberta Agriculture soil conservation awareness specialist. "As the theme for National Soil Conservation Week says, soil conservation is in all of our hands.

"Your urban yard or acreage can also benefit from the same principles farmers use," she adds. "Whether on a few square yards or hundreds of acres, it's easier and better to take care of the existing soil. Nature can eventually rebuild top soil, but it takes years and years.

"Stewardship in your yard extends to many things. As in farming, you have to start with knowing your soil and planning what you grow," she says. This includes soil testing, proper drainage, identifying previous problems such as diseases, soil fertility problems, erosion prone areas and the types of trees or plants to be grown.

To prevent erosion and conserve your soil, make sure soil isn't exposed to wind or water. "If you don't, you might find your soil in a neighbor's yard," notes Shackel-Hardman.

Lawn clippings can be used as a mulch to protect exposed soil. This is very important in late fall and spring when the soil surface is bare. Mulch also reduces evaporation and conserves soil moisture.

Gail Rankin, of HortInfo Services, has a precaution if you use grass clippings for mulch or compost. "If you've used a weed and feed type fertilizer on your lawn to kill dandelions or other weeds, wait until after the third cutting before you use the clippings for mulch," she says.

Good management practices include other techniques farmers use such as crop rotation, preserving native habitat and effective, safe pesticide use.

Rotating types of plants grown limits damage by pests—from diseases to insects—that attack only one type of plant. In a yard, crop rotation is moving vegetables and flowers to different areas. For example, says Rankin, peas and beans should be on a two to three-year rotation and potatoes on a five-year rotation to prevent diseases.

On farms, crop rotations include cereals (wheat, barley and oats), oilseeds (canola and flax), pulses (peas and beans) and forages (grasses).

Preserving native plants and trees in your yard provides homes for native wildlife and birds. On the farm, natural areas are preserved and shelterbelts are used to reduce erosion, manage snow and provide wildlife habitat.

Use pesticides effectively and always follow safety instructions carefully. "Controlling weeds and diseases can be done a variety of ways. If you use a pesticide, read the label, follow the instructions and use protective clothing and equipment," advises Shackel-Hardman.

On the farm, weed control is necessary to reduce competition for moisture and nutrients between the crop and weeds. Minimum tillage in combination with herbicides is a soil conserving method of weed control.

Contact: *Barb Shackel-Hardman*
(403)422-4385

Pam North or
Gail Rankin
(403)944-1845

Citizenship agenda for 4-Hers

Gaining a greater appreciation of what it means to be a Canadian while experiencing the sights of the national capital is what six Alberta 4-Hers expected from the *24th Annual National 4-H Citizenship Seminar*.

Alberta delegates joined more than 50 other senior 4-H members from across the country in Ottawa between March 31 and April 6 to learn about Canada's political process, and where and how they fit in.

Representing Alberta were: Jodi-Lynn Glover, Clover Crafters 4-H Multi-Club member and grade 12 student in Wainwright; Nancy Hixt, Beiseker 4-H Beef Club member and current SAIT broadcasting student; Rod Kaliel, Fawcett 4-H Beef Club member and first year University of Alberta student; Kristy Mastel, Prairie Roses Crafts Club member and University of Calgary student; Colin Strauss, Bon Accord Beef Club member and University of Alberta agricultural student; and, Rose Marie Trenson, Rimbey 4-H Club member and Red Deer College student. With the exception of Strauss all are eight-year members of their club. Strauss has one more year of 4-H experience.

Traditional activities include touring the Parliament Buildings, viewing question period and an MP luncheon. Throughout the week, delegates also learned about political lobbying, lobby groups, elections and the Supreme Court. The finale was a mock debate on the controversial Fire Arms Control Act.

Judy Gallant, Canadian 4-H Council program manager, explains this is a new-this-year innovative program approach that "will allow delegates to actually put what they have learned into practice and truly learn to do by doing".

One of the other highlight activities involved each delegate receiving certificates of Canadian citizenship. Greg Joy, high jump silver medallist at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal, presided over the ceremony.

Contact: *Mark Reache* *Marguerite Stark*
(403)422-4444 *(403)948-8510*

Agri-News briefs

Cattle price trends in '95

Steady trading has been the trend for both Alberta feeder and slaughter cattle prices in 1995 says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "Alberta feeder prices have been trading steady for the most of the winter," says Doug Walkey of the market analysis and statistics branch. "Prices are typically two to eight cents per pound under the same time last year," he adds. Alberta Direct sale cattle prices have traded steady in the $88 to $95/cwt. range in 1995 he notes. "The swing in the range, roughly $85 per head, is enough to spell profit or loss on any given pen," he says. "Prices hovered near the top of the range in early March putting smiles on the faces of sellers." Prices, however, did fade beyond the lower end of the range by the end of the month. Negative news in the meat complex pushed prices down and prices are running about $8/cwt. below a year-ago he adds. "Prices were a bit more volatile last year within a $87 and $96/cwt. range." For more information, contact Walkey in Edmonton at (403)427-5376.

West Central 4-H Council leading donor to national project

Alberta's West Central Regional 4-H Council and the St. Claude Home Economics Club of Manitoba are the top donors to the national 4-H council. Both will receive special awards. These two 4-H groups were among those who responded to a challenge issued by the Canadian 4-H Council's resource development committee to undertake one fund raising project per year and donate a portion of the proceeds to the national 4-H organization. The Camrose District 4-H Council also participated in the national challenge program. Manitoba led the way with the most groups involved. Each 4-H group that participates is recognized with a letter of thanks, recognition certificate and listings in the national newsletter and annual report. Participating clubs decide when and how they want to raise funds and the amount of profit they'll donate. The national council uses the funds to support national programs, new program development, services and distribution of publications, promotional and recruitment materials. Anyone interested in the program should contact the national office at (613)723-4444.

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National honors for Lakeland College judging team

The Lakeland College agricultural judging team brought home three team awards and four individual ones from the recent *Canadian Intercollegiate Judging Competition* in Guelph. The team finished second overall and also claimed champion poultry and reserve champion livestock awards. Team member Clint Sutter of Hardisty, Alberta finished third in the individual judging category, only four points behind the first place finisher. Other team members were Colin Toner of Kelfield, Saskatchewan; Derek Jones of Roslin, Ontario; and, James Purdy of Almonte, Ontario. The Vermilion Agricultural Society sponsored the team. For more information, contact team coach Peter Walsh in Vermilion at (403)853-8613.

Charolais association names new GM

Dale Kelly of Calgary is the new general manager of the Canadian Charolais Association (CCA). Kelly assumes his new duties next week (April 17). He replaces interim manager Joyce Stewart who will return to her office manager and recording secretary duties. Ken Aylesworth, who was CCA general manager for eight years, is now the executive director of Canadian Beef Improvement, a new genetics centre based in Calgary. For more information, contact the CCA office in Calgary at (403)250-9242 or Lester Maillang, CCA president in Camrose, at (403)672-6636.

CCGD annual conference in PEI May 28-31

The Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors will hold its annual conference May 28 through 31 in Charlottetown, PEI. The conference theme is "people...our heritage, our business". Agenda topics include how to create customers for life and the customer comes second. Registration and other information is available from Yollande Scott at the CCGD office in Montreal by calling (514)982-0267.

Nominations open for *Poultry Serviceman's Award*

Nominations for the 1995 *Alberta Poultry Serviceman Award* must be submitted on or before August 31. The award is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding service to the Alberta poultry industry. Nominations can be made by anyone, but must be supported by at least three Alberta poultry producers. The nominee doesn't have to live in Alberta, but must be or have been associated with the province's poultry industry. Nomination guidelines and other information is available by writing: Alberta Poultry Service Industry Award, Pork and Poultry Section, Alberta Agriculture, #204, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Signs are signs, not souvenirs

Travellers on Alberta's secondary highways and rural roads often need more information than large-scale maps can provide. That's why the Alberta Motor Association (AMA) has posted directional signs at important rural intersections for many years. Route marking has been a free, public service since the AMA was founded in 1926. These AMA "fingerboards" point to 3,500 destinations not on large-scale maps. However, sign vandalism has become a significant and persistent problem. Almost half of the fingerboards were replaced or repaired last year. Both the AMA and the Government of Alberta ask travellers to leave these directional signs intact to point the way for others. For more information, contact Dave Barr, AMA director of corporate communications, in Edmonton at (403)430-5693.

AGRI-NEWS

April 17, 1995

CANADIANA

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I Care Two coming to a pocket near you

When harvest starts this fall some Alberta farmers will receive a unique message to carry with them when they're out in the field.

For the second consecutive year, a provincial farm safety campaign invites rural Alberta students to create a postcard and send it to their favorite farmer. This 1995 version is the *I Care Pocket Postcard* campaign, modeled on the highly successful 1994 *I Care Postcard* program sponsored by Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program, John Deere and the Alberta Womens' Institutes (AWI).

"We're repeating this campaign because of the tremendous results *I Care* generated last year," says Bonnie Hayden, manager of marketing communications for John Deere Limited."Not only did the postcards to farmers emphasize farm safety to individuals, the extensive media coverage about campaign winners and their favorite farmers on television and radio and in newspapers brought the same message to the broad farm audience."

Last year 1,500 students designed and wrote postcards for their favorite farmer. The postcards were sent to the provincial farm safety program office where entries were chosen for over 270 prizes. Selected messages were also used for National Farm Safety Week promotions.

"Most important all the postcards were mailed—just before harvest—to the farmers they were designed for," notes Jacqueline Galloway, farm safety consultant.

"Harvest timing is really a key to the campaign. It can be a dangerous time," she says. Two-thirds of Alberta's 1994 farm fatalities—10 out of 15—occurred between August and November.

"We hope the farmers who receive these postcards will carry them in their shirt pocket, close to their heart, as a constant reminder to keep safe during harvest," adds Galloway.

Starting next week, AWI branches will begin distributing the campaign brochures to rural schools. Prize winners will be announced in early August. Presentations will be made at John Deere dealerships across the province in late August.

The *I Care Pocket Postcard* campaign is the fifth year the Alberta Agriculture, John Deere and AWI partnership has sponsored a farm safety campaign. In each campaign, rural school children have brought a safety message to adults.

Contact:	*Jacqueline Galloway* *(403)427-2171*	*Bonnie Hayden* *(905)945-7314*

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
formerly Print Media

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

El Nino starts to disappear during a warm, dry March

El Nino's influence brought the fourth consecutive month of above normal temperatures to Alberta in March says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

"The average monthly temperature for March was -3.9°C, 0.4 degrees above the 1961 to 1990 normal temperature," notes Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch.

An El Nino event is a large area of unusually warm water in the tropical Pacific. Generally, El Nino causes above normal temperatures in Western Canada during the winter months.

"Around the province, average temperatures ranged from 1.9 degrees below normal to 2.3 degrees above normal with El Nino showing signs of rapid decay during the month," he adds.

Bow Island reported the warmest monthly average in Alberta at 0.3°C, 1.2 degrees above normal. High Level reported the coldest monthly average temperature at -12.4°C, 1.9 degrees below normal.

"While March temperatures were above normal, most Alberta locations received precipitation amounts below normal," he says. "Several locations in central and southern Alberta reported little precipitation for the fourth month in a row. More than two thirds of the province reported less than 10 mm with amounts varying from zero to 80 per cent of normal."

The average provincial precipitation in March was 9.4 mm, 10.8 mm below the 1961 to 1990 average for the month. Both temperature and precipitation averages are based on data recorded at 44 Environment Canada climate stations across the province.

"One exception to the dry conditions in southern Alberta was Medicine Hat. Its reported 25.2 mm of precipitation was 157 per cent of its monthly normal of 16 mm," notes Dzikowski.

March began with typical winter conditions of snow and cool temperatures. Cold arctic air dominated Alberta the second week of March with several record minimum temperatures set in the Peace and central regions on March 6 and 7. Warm mild Pacific air dominated the province in the second half of March, with temperatures well above normal.

For more information, contact Dzikowski in Edmonton at (403)422-4385.

Contact: *Peter Dzikowski*
(403)422-4385

4-H scholarships application deadline May 15

Former and current Alberta 4-H members have a month left to get in their applications for a 4-H post-secondary scholarship.

The deadline for all applications is May 15, 1995. More than $45,000 in scholarships are available to past and present Alberta 4-Hers attending post-secondary institutions this fall.

"Applications for the 84 4-H scholarships are available from all Alberta rural high schools and post-secondary instutitions, regional 4-H offices and by writing the provincial 4-H office," says Arron Madson, 4-H personal development specialist. Write to: 4-H Scholarships, Room 200, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

"Everyone is encouraged to apply," adds Madson. Criteria for the scholarships vary. While most are based on academic skills, community involvement and 4-H background, some are non-academic, some based on leadership skills, and others based on the area of the province you come from. Applications received after the May 15 deadline won't be accepted notes Madson.

For more information on 4-H scholarships in Alberta, contact the 4-H Branch in Edmonton at (403)422-4444. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Arron Madson*
(403)422-4444

Alberta Cattle Commission sponsors new 4-H scholarships

Two new 4-H scholarships will reward past or present Alberta 4-H beef club members.

"The Alberta Cattle Commission is proud to show its support for young beef producers by offering these two brand new 4-H post secondary scholarships," says Arno Doerksen, Alberta Cattle Commission producer liasion committee chair.

Each scholarship is worth $500. Awards will be made annually to one female and one male recipient.

"Preference will be given to past or present 4-H members who have been involved in Alberta 4-H for at least three years," notes Arron Madson, 4-H personal development specialist.

"The selection committee will consider leadership, community and communications skills as well as academic standing," he adds.

The scholarships are available to students in their second year of studies and beyond in any post secondary institution.

More than 80 4-H scholarships worth more than $45,000 are available to former and current Alberta 4-H club members. The deadline for all 4-H scholarship applications is May 15, 1995.

Cont'd on page 3

For more information on these scholarships, contact the 4-H office in Edmonton at (403)422-4444. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact:	*Arron Madson* *(403)422-4444*	*Arno Doerksen* *(403)641-2498*

Give perennial beds a fresh look this spring

If you're tired of your perennial bed's look, this spring could be the time for putting a fresh face on your yard says Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"You might not need or want to remove all the plants. Peonies and other long-lived perennials as well as shrubs can be left in place. It's really up to you and how you want to change your perennial bed's look," says Shelley Barkley of the Crop Diversification Centre, South in Brooks.

"Renovating your perennial beds has at least three stages—planning what you want to do, digging up the old bed and planting the new one," she adds.

Barkley suggests starting at the drawing board. "If you draw a new planting diagram, it will help make planting easier when you get to that part."

Next, be prepared to dig the plants once they are up about two inches or so. "Spring isn't the best time to move all perennials," she adds. "Some perennials are picky. For example, most lilies and peonies prefer the fall, while irises prefer the summer. Lift these plants when it suits them, not you."

Weather is also a factor in the best time to dig. "An overcast day is an advantage—it's easier on both you and the plants," notes Barkley.

Besides digging tools, Barkley recommends a tarp and a way to label the plants once they've been dug. "Label the plants as you dig," she advises. "Then, put them on a piece of plastic or tarp. It's better if the tarp is in the shade. This will help prevent drying out."

Before re-planting, prepare the perennial bed's soil. "Don't worry about the plants you've dug. They can survive for two to three days if they are kept moist and the weather is cool. Watering root balls helps prevent root drying," she says.

To prepare the soil, dig down at least a space depth and add organic matter. This can be peat moss, compost or well-rotted manure. The organic matter gives the soil a good crumb structure and drainage.

As well, a fertilizer can be incorporated at this time. Barkley recommends 10-30-10 at a rate of 700 g to 1 kg per 10 m^2. Finally, level and smooth out the bed with a rake.

"There's an added bonus with the plants already dug that you can divide them before you re-plant," she notes. Bonus plants can be added to the border or be traded or given to friends and neighbors.

To re-plant, dig holes and plant according to the specific plant's needs. For example, laying iris rhizomes horizontally in the soil. "And, be sure you don't place plants deeper than their original planting depth," she adds.

Firm the soil around the plant and water in using 10-52-10 or another type of plant-starter fertilizer.

"To ensure your perennials can get established, provide extra water during the first month or so," recommends Barkley. "With a little extra care, your new look border will soon return to its former glory."

Contact:	*Shelley Barkley* *(403)362-3391*

Equine information day April 22 in Red Deer

The Alberta Equine Industry Development Council (AEIDC) is holding an information day featuring updates from the council's first year.

The April 22 afternoon session is scheduled to start at 1 p.m. at the Red Deer Westerner Exhibition's Lookout Room. The free information program will be followed by a wine and cheese social. While admission is free, participants are encouraged to support the council by buying a membership.

"The council has accomplished a lot in its first year. This information day will highlight some of its activities and also look to the industry for future direction," says Les Burwash of Alberta Agriculture's horse industry section. "It's hoped that this will be the first annual of many such information update sessions," he adds.

During its first year, the council has been active in promoting, researching and presenting the equine industry's view in a number areas of industry concern. For example, the council has lobbied for limited liability legislation similar to that in 11 U.S. states and that applies to riding trials in Nova Scotia and Ontario. The AEIDC board has also adopted an animal welfare position statement.

AEIDC committee panels will make presentations on these topics as well as a number of others including equine insurance, industry employment opportunities and the council's nurse mare registry.

The council's mandate is to serve the common needs of Albertans who produce, own, use or benefit from the production, sale or use of horses. Alberta's equine industry is a multi-million dollar business worth about $400 million annually. About $75 million is in the agricultural sector and the rest in sport and recreation. Alberta produces about 30 per cent of Canada's horses and has a horse population of about 140,000.

For more information about the AEIDC, contact council secretary Nan Morrison at (403)931-2202.

Contact:	*Les Burwash* *(403)948-8532*	*Nan Morrison* *(403)931-2202*

Ride into Provincial 4-H Horse Classic Aug.2-4

A provincial event for Alberta 4-H horse club members returns this summer in three days of competition, clinics and social activities.

The *Provincial 4-H Horse Classic* will run August 2 through 4 at Olds College.

"All 4-H horse project members are invited to share, enjoy and learn with their fellow members from throughout the province. It's an opportunity to compare horse knowledge, enhance skills and socialize with other 4-H horse project members," says Henry Wiegman, provincial 4-H livestock specialist.

Any officially registered Alberta 4-H project member is eligible to enter of the classic's events. The entry deadline is July 4.

Members can enter as individuals and as teams. Individual competitions include horse judging, knowledge, identification, individual demonstration and marketing. Demonstrations and horse bowling are the team competitions.

All members who attend the classic are automatically entered in a hippology contest. "This tests a member's equine knowledge through four phases—knowledge stations, live horse judging, a quiz and team problems," notes Wiegman.

"The top four senior members—based on individual points—will be invited to go on to the *Denver Western 4-H Roundup* in January 1996," he adds.

A number of educational clinics will also be offered to the classic's participants. Subjects are bits and bitting, trailer safety, horse dentistry, warm-up and cool down, and horse discipline.

The basic program cost is a $40 registration fee. Meal tickets, meal packages and a complete meal and accommodation package are available from Olds College. Camping is also available.

Provincial 4-H Horse Classic information and registration packages have been mailed to all 4-H club leaders. Packages are also available from regional 4-H specialists and the provincial 4-H office in Edmonton by calling (403)422-4444. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

"The classic wouldn't be possible without support from a number of sponsors," notes Wiegman. "Long-time friends of 4-H, the UFA and Olds College are joined in this event by Lammle's Western Wear, Green Drop Fertilizer, Promolas, Pepsi and Old Dutch."

Contact: Henry Wiegman (403)422-4444

Dwayne Grover (403)742-8056

Health of soils, sustainable ag featured in new book

A new book chronicling the health of Canada's soil resources will soon be available.

The Health of Our Soils—Toward Sustainable Agriculture in Canada examines the health of Canada's agriculture soils, soil degradation and contamination. It's based on work by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada research teams as well as provincial agriculture departments and universities.

"This book's purpose is to identify the main soil degradation problems, to suggest solutions and to predict future trends," says co-editor Don Acton of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Centre of Land and Biological Research in Saskatoon.

Wind and water erosion, salinity, organic matter, soil structures, and contamination of soil and groundwater are all covered in the 120 page, full-color book.

Current soil conservation practices are outlined in the book. Two Prairie trends are an increase in direct seeding and a decrease in summerfallow. Those practices have a positive effect on Prairie soils. For example, *Health of our Soils* says the risk of wind erosion on the Prairies decreased by seven per cent between 1981 and 1991 because of both reduced summerfallow and increased conservation tillage.

"*Health of our Soils* does note the risk of salinity and erosion has decreased in the Prairie provinces due to reduced fallow and tillage as well as increased permanent cover," notes Acton.

"It's written in layman language and is easy to read," says Hank Vander Pluym, head of Alberta Agriculture conservation and development branch's soil conservation section.

Vander Pluym applauds the book's detailed overview of in-roads made in controlling soil degradation. "This is a good look at how the situation has changed in the last decade," he says.

Tom Jensen, an Alberta Agriculture soil conservation specialist, also gives *Health of Soils* a thumbs-up rating. In particular, he reviewed the sections relating to soil organic matter. "It's thorough, very informative and suitable for a wide range of readers," he says.

Prepublication orders for *The Health of Our Soils—Toward Sustainable Agriculture in Canada* will be taken until April 30. The prepublication price is $10. It goes up to $15 after April 30. Order information is available by calling (613)995-5011 in Ottawa.

Contact: Dr. Don Acton
(306)975-4061

Agri-News briefs

Wheat and barley marketing committee established

Alberta's agriculture minister has set up a steering committee to develop a clear vision and direction for Alberta producers to market wheat and barley. "Recently, a motion was approved by Members of the Legislative Assembly which sets the stage for a dual-market environment for wheat and barley," says Walter Paszkowski. "By creating more options and opportunities for producers and processors, the steering committee reinforces both industry and the Alberta government's resolve to improve returns to Alberta farmers in marketing wheat, barley and related products." The committee will develop an industry vision for marketing wheat and barley plus goals and strategies to achieve that vision, and lay a groundwork and set criteria for a producer plebiscite to confirm the industry's direction. "Industry has been demanding action from the federal government to free up the wheat and barley marketing system and remove the rigid controls in the domestic and continental marketplaces," adds Paszkowski. "Token and piecemeal attempts to do so are not acceptable. In conjunction with industry, we will ensure there is clear vision for industry to market wheat and barley, and the necessary changes to fulfil that vision will be made." Steering committee members represent the Alberta Barley Commission, the Western Barley Growers Association, the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association, the Alberta Soft Wheat Producers Commission, Unifarm and the Alberta Grain Commission. For more information, contact Ken Moholitny, chair of the Alberta Grain Commission at (403)427-7329.

Ten Monsanto agribusiness scholarships available in Alberta

Alberta students starting post-secondary school who are from a family farm have the opportunity to apply for a *Monsanto Agribusiness Scholarship*. Eligible students must be entering either an agriculture, agri-science or management (marketing or finance) faculty at a Canadian university or college this fall. Selection criteria include academic standards, demonstrated leadership in the community and university/college acceptance. Monsanto will award 10 scholarships in four provinces—Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The application deadline is August 15. For applications and more information, call Monsanto in Winnipeg at (204)985-1000.

New name for Farmfair in '95

Northlands Farmfair has been renamed *Farmfair International*. The re-named event, Alberta's largest livestock show and sale, will run November 4 through 12 at Northlands Park. In recent years, Farmfair has developed an impressive international marketing program. In 1994 the AgriTrade Centre had nearly 800 registrants. Since 1989, cattle buyers have come to Farmfair from 26 different countries. The Canadian Finals Rodeo runs in conjunction with Farmfair. "In addition to the millions of dollars that accrue to the Alberta livestock industry, the community of Edmonton and area is the direct recipient of in excess of $35 million spent during Farmfair International and the Canadian Finals Rodeo," says Roxanne Carr, agricultural manager for Northlands Parks. For more information, contact Cheryl Herchen at (403)471-7295.

Environmental practice highlighted at joint ASPB/AIA conference

The role of the environmental professional is the subject of a two-day conference April 25 and 26 in Edmonton. Co-sponsored by the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists (ASPB) and the Alberta Institute of Agrologists (AIA), the conference features an inter-disciplinary discussion of environmental stewardship. Speakers will examine regulatory change in the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, and the provincial Environmental Protection and Enhancement and Professional and Occupational Associations Registration acts. Two full sessions are devoted to the role of environmental professionals from a number of perspectives. Other topics are ecosystem management and environmental decision making. Registration for ASPB and AIA members is $100, non-members is $160 and students is $50. Lunch, evening banquet and conference proceedings are included. The conference is at the Edmonton Hilton Hotel. For more information, contact registrar Bonnie Holtby of the ASPB in Edmonton at (403)434-5765 or fax (403)434-1442.

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ACTS has new president

The Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) has chosen a new president. Lorne Turner of Eckville is the new ACTS president succeeding Murray Sankey of Veteran. Turner was elected president at the new board's first meeting in March. Elected vice-presidents were Andy Wierenga of Neerlandia and Lance Wheeler of Dalemead. Wheeler is one of four new directors on the board. The others are Spencer Hilton of Strathmore, Brad Hearn of Etzicom and John Dorey of Clandonald. For more information, contact Turner at (403)746-5831 or Russ Evans, ACTS executive manager, at (403)936-5306.

Out of province breeders grand champions at Dairy Classic

An Ayrshire breeder from Saskatchewan, a Jersey breeder from Manitoba and a Holstein breeder from Ontario took all the grand champion cow titles at the 1995 Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Dairy Classic. All breeders herd, premier breeding unit and premier exhibitor titles went to Alberta breeders. Grand champion Ayrshire went to Bryce and Kim Fisher of Warman, Saskatchewan. The other Ayrshire awards went to Raven Glen Ayrshires of Stauffer, Alberta. Gentrice Farms of Brandon, Manitoba took the Jersey cow championship. Other Jersey awards went to Green Hectares/Lil Buster of Innisfail. The Holstein cow championships went to Walkerbrae Holsteins of Guelph, Ontario. Premier Holstein breeder and breeders herd went to Lindved Holsteins of Rosemary. Premier Holstein exhibitor was Continental Holsteins of Leduc. Rietveld Dairies of Fort Saskatchewan won the Herdsman Award. Showmanship class award winners were: Jennifer Rietveld of Fort Saskatchewan in junior, Derek Van Sickle of Innisfail in senior and Len Congden of Bashaw in mature. For more information, contact Charlene Dittmer at (403)261-0313.

Hole appointed to FCC board

Lois Hole of St. Albert has been appointed to the Farm Credit Corporation (FCC) board of directors. She joins six other board members. FCC, a federal crown corporation provides financial service needs to Canadian agriculture. For more information, contact Richard Perry in Regina at (306)780-8766.

AGRI-NEWS

April 24, 1995

Getting from your kitchen to the market workshop

If your prospective food business is stalled somewhere between your kitchen and the marketplace, an Alberta Agriculture workshop could help you get your business in gear.

The next three *From Your Kitchen to the Market* seminars will be in Camrose tomorrow (April 25), Smoky Lake on May 9 and Red Deer on May 11. The seminars are part of the *This Business of Food* series.

"These seminars are designed to answer questions whether you're starting a food business, trying to get into a different market, wondering about labels and packages, or looking for low cost promotion ideas," says Joyce Lencucha, agri-food development consultant.

Each seminar starts with quality. The local Alberta Agriculture rural development specialist will discuss consumers' demand for quality and tips to achieve safe, high quality products.

Next on the program are the what and why of labelling regulations with an Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada food officer. "There'll be time for lots of questions," adds Lencucha.

After lunch, the focus goes to packaging, marketing and business image. Murray Fierheller, of the Food Processing and Development Centre, will talk about packaging options and how to decide the best method for your product.

Lencucha and Randi Sandbu, processing foods section development officer, will share information about getting into a variety of different markets. Lencucha will follow with a session on the importance of business image.

"We're also inviting all participants to bring their products, label, package or business cards for display on a network table," she adds.

Registration is $20 (plus GST) and includes lunch. To register, contact one of the following rural development specialists: Marian Williams in Camrose at (403)679-1210; Kathleen Ozman in Smoky Lake at (403)656-3613; or, Lynn Stegman in Lacombe at (403)782-3301.

Contact: *Joyce Lencucha*
(403)340-5358

Decision-making advice at a bargain price

Paying less than $3 per hour for an consultant may sound far fetched, but that's all Alberta Agriculture's Farm Financial Advisory Service (FFAS) costs.

FFAS is available to farmers who are experiencing or planning significant changes in their financial structure or their management techniques. For a fee of $100 (plus GST), they receive up to a maximum of 40 hours of consulting time—at their farm—from trained experts.

"This service is confidential and one-to-one," explains Rudy Warawa, FFAS northeastern co-ordinator.

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"Another advantage is that the consultants are often farmers themselves. As the brochure explains, all our advisors know the difference between a combine and a tractor," he adds.

Farmers have used FFAS in variety of ways. For example, when they've considered expanding or adding to their operation, or bringing another family member into the operation. Sometimes the service assists farmers who have some degree of financial difficulty.

"Very often, clients just want an objective, second opinion about their current progress and future plans," says Warawa. "Others use FFAS for detailed financial analysis and outlining different management alternatives to help them reach their particular goals.

"Some farmers want help to identify the profit and loss centre in their farm operation," he adds.

Warawa stresses the discussions, financial statements and written report issued at the end of the sessions are all "held in strict confidence".

Farmers interested in using FFAS as part of their decision-making process, can call any Alberta Agriculture district or regional office for more information.

FFAS is funded by the Canada/Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI). FBMI covers additional costs above the $100 fee.

Contact: Rudy Warawa
(403)632-5400

Home gardeners—help prevent potato blight

Home gardeners have a part to play in preventing the spread of late blight, a destructive and devastating potato disease.

"It's the same fungal disease that caused the Irish Potato Famine," explains Clive Schaupmeyer, potato specialist at Alberta Agriculture's Crop Diversification Centre in Brooks.

"Until 1992 late blight was rarely seen in Alberta, but a combination of weather and other factors contributed to major outbreaks first in southern and then in central Alberta last year," he adds.

The disease, caused by the fungus *Phytothphora infestans*, spreads rapidly once its established. When conditions are right, uncontrolled late blight will kill a commercial potato patch within a few days. Besides killing the plant, it also will move down into the soil and rot tubers.

"If home gardeners want to grow good quality potatoes and help prevent the disease from spreading, we're encouraging them not to use potatoes they stored to seed this year's crop and not to store potatoes to use as seed for the next crop year," he says.

Because infected tubers can appear healthy when harvested but still carry the disease, Schaupmeyer recommends home gardeners use certified seed when they plant their potatoes this season.

"Certified seed isn't an absolute insurance against the disease, since there are legal tolerances in certified seed. However, you're still better off using certified seed that has little or no blight, than planting infected seed you saved from last year," he says.

Seed tubers with any type of rot, especially a brownish, dry rot should be discarded he adds.

Home gardeners should also be on the lookout for the disease. It can come from infected seed or blow into your patch as wind-carried spores. "You should be aware of the disease's signs because it needs to be controlled immediately," says Schaupmeyer.

Late blight symptoms are variable. Usually the infection starts on one or two leaves as a dark blotch on the tip or inside. Generally, this blotch is surrounded by a light halo. After a day or so, the disease kills the leaflet and others on the same leaf stem. The disease spreads to other leaflets and compound leaves, and soon the entire plant is dead.

"If caught early enough, late blight can be controlled with a fungicide. Appropriate fungicides are available at local garden centres," he notes.

Contact: Clive Schaupmeyer
(403)362-3391

Daysland 4-Her province's best speaker

Nathan Espheter's view of "the Alberta advantage" earned him the title as Alberta's best 4-H public speaker in 1995.

Eshpeter, a Daysland 4-H Small Engines Club member, was one of 14 top 4-H speakers who qualified for the recent competition at Edmonton's Northlands Park. All 14 had to speak at at least three levels of competition to reach the provincial finals.

Each finalist had just over one week to research and prepare a four to six minute speech on the selected "Alberta advantage" topic. Eshpeter's *The Prairie Promise* plus his impromptu speech won him first place.

Ronda Dick of Lousana finished second. Her prepared speech was titled *Unrecognized Resource* and focused on farm women. *Smile, You're a Tourist Attraction* won third place for Kimberley Svitich of Edmonton.

After the competition, the speakers and their families enjoyed a banquet and a guest speaker. Cam Tait, an Edmonton Journal reporter, claims to be Canada's first "sit-down" comedian. Tait, who has cerebral palsy, describes the disease as an inconvenience.

"Cam's presentation was an entertaining, enlightening and very appropriate end to the speaking competition," says Arron Madson, provincial 4-H personal development specialist. "He talked about the virtues of dreaming and setting goals. He also personifies

Cont'd on page 3

reaching goals C despite any and all obstacles. That's something the 4-H movement encourages in its members—learning, growing and achieving."

Communications training is emphasized in the Alberta 4-H program notes Madson. "Members learn many communications skills. Competitive public speaking is only one element of that skill development," he says.

The *1995 Provincial 4-H Public Speaking Finals* was sponsored by Northlands Park and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

Contact: *Arron Madson*
(403)422-4444

PARI demonstrations more than technology and techniques

Plots have long been a staple of agricultural research, but demonstration farms offer researchers an opportunity for field scale research. The Parkland Agricultural Research Initiative (PARI) conservation demo-farm near Mundare offers that advantage and more.

Partnerships have made the 600-acre PARI farm, one of three in Canada's parkland region, and its research mandate possible. It was established in 1993 with funding from the greenhouse gas component of Canada's Green Plan and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP).

The joint venture's partners now include Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), local municipalities, farmers and agribusinesses. Governments and organizations provided the demo-farm's start-up costs. Research costs are shared by the partners. The long-term goal is to make the farm self-sustaining. Currently, LARA manages and administers the farm with guidance from a local farmer advisory committee.

Carol Bettac, northeastern Alberta's regional conservation co-ordinator, describes PARI as "an excellent example of the efficiencies and success a partnership of industry, farmers, wildlife organizations, producer groups and municipal, federal and provincial governments can achieve by working together. Such partnerships reduce duplicating efforts and ensure efficient use of resources."

PARI's mandate is to maximize agricultural returns without depleting resources such as soil, water or wildlife. Or more specifically, says farm manager Dean Kupchenko, "To promote the use of direct seeding techniques for soil conservation and to promote the co-existence of agriculture and wildlife."

The farm's general plan recognizes the importance of wildlife and crop management, and commits to encouraging and preserving wildlife notes Kupchenko

Integrated management projects include dense nesting cover, perching poles, and maintaining grazing and other wildlife habitat. Two fenced dugouts with pump-out systems are part of a water quality and wildlife habitat project.

"Wildlife on the PARI farm is thriving," he says. "Scarcely a day goes by where you don't see a deer, fox or hawk as well as a multitude of small birds. We have tailored our practices to fit the environment in which we farm, instead of changing our environment to fit our practices."

Demonstrating conservation is a big part of the PARI farm. A total of 200 acres are direct seeded. Minimum and conventional tillage are used on another 50 acres for comparison purposes. The farm is also a site for precision farming research.

"The farm is a proving ground for issues concerning conservation farming techniques," says Kupchenko. "It implements technologies and techniques currently available and allows farmers to gain knowledge from the experience without risk."

The PARI farm will be officially opened later this year. Three to four other major events are also planned during the summer and fall. As well, plans are in the works for an interpretative trail through the farm.

Contact:	*Dean Kupchenko*	*Tamara Lewis*
	(403)632-2244	*(403)422-4385*

Integrated plan sustains farm economics and resources

Farming by combining soil capability with needs of the landscape, instead of by the typical size and square-shaped field may be one result of integrated farm conservation planning.

"*Integrated farm conservation planning* (IFCP) is a way to identify farming practices that can improve farm income and the farmer's soil and water resources," says Gaylen Armstrong, a Lethbridge-based consultant to Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. Armstrong also co-ordinates a provincial IFCP project.

Started in 1994, the project's partners include Alberta Agriculture, Wildlife Habitat Canada, the Alberta component of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), Ducks Unlimited Canada and five farms in different regions of Alberta. The study will be completed this summer.

"Farmer co-operators had to make a commitment to both making an integrated farm conservation plan and then implementing the soil and water conservation strategies," says Armstrong.

Cont'd on page 4

"The ultimate goal of this type of planning is to ensure farms within the agricultural landscape remain as sustainable economic units that can supply quality food, water, wildlife and other resources," he adds.

Terry Leslie, a Sedgewick area farmer, is one of the five farmers involved in the project. IFCP appealed to him as a project that balanced the interests of agriculture, wildlife and environment. "IFCP provided ideas I hadn't thought of," says Leslie.

Among those ideas, or management options, are establishing permanent cover, retaining aspen/brush stands and wetlands, contour cultivation, shelterbelts, rotational grazing systems and improving water quality.

Leslie says some of the suggested integrated farm conservation plan practices appear to be costly at the start. However, he says he sees those sorts of conservation projects paying for themselves in the long run.

For example, a stock watering system that involves pumping water away from its source has a number of initial costs. However, the payback is in improved water quality and livestock performance. Depending on the water source, the project may also protect riparian habitat.

One advantage of the IFCP project is some cost-sharing. Carolyn Blades, of Camrose, describes cost-sharing as one incentive that influenced her and her husband Kerry. Armstrong agrees. "Another important ingredient to success is support programs to provide incentives to farmers," he says.

"Often the costs are a 50-50 split between the farmer and some sort of existing program, such as the permanent cover program," says Armstrong. "Most farmer cost is indirect such as labor."

All of the co-operating farms—the other three are near Warner, Big Valley and Fairview—will become demonstrations of how IFCP works. "As demo-farms, they'll show integrated farm conservation plans in action," says Armstrong.

"Hopefully, this will both get producers interested in making an integrated conservation plan for their own farm and in applying the ideas and practices," he adds.

Contact: *Gaylen Armstrong*
(403)381-5538

High tech precision farming for conservation and profit

Maximizing profits and minimizing environmental impact are a winning combination of potential advantages researchers see in high-tech precision farming systems.

Precision farming uses two emerging technologies—global positioning systems (GPS) and geographic information systems (GIS). "They provide us with new capabilities to analyze and manage soil and landscape," says Tom Goddard, Alberta Agriculture soil conservation specialist.

He describes GPS and GIS as tools, and more complete tools than just detailed soil surveys. "Yield mapping through satellite technology is cheaper and more precise," he notes.

Goddard is part of a research team involved in a precision farming project started in 1993. The project is a joint effort of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary and two private sector companies, Sherritt Fertilizers and Concord Inc.

At four sites—near Bow Island, Mundare, Hussar and Stettler—the project team combines satellite technology with yield monitors on combines to generate field yield maps.

Their next step is developing a fertilizer management system that gives special treatment to areas of the field. This is based on the yield map plus soil and landscape information such as slope.

A computer controls the system. Its software links the information and the fertilizer equipment to the satellites. GPS accurately positions the fertilizer banding equipment. An on-board GIS system uses that position to tell the equipment how much fertilizer to apply in the particular position.

"Our goal is to make the technology work for farmers so they can adjust their management practices to variations within their fields," says Goddard.

When farm fields were smaller, management practices could be adjusted from field to field to match some of the major differences in soil and landscape explains Goddard. As fields became larger, greater variations in soil and landscape could be found within the field. However, the large fields were often treated uniformly.

"Through GPS and GIS we can define and manage much smaller areas within a field," says Goddard. "Add in variable rate technology, and fertilizer can be adjusted automatically to changed conditions. The result should be more efficient and effective fertilizer use cutting the farmer's costs. As well, it could minimize environmental impacts. For example, prevent nitrate leaching by reducing nitrogen applications in specific areas of a field."

Gerard Oosterhuis, the Bow Island farmer co-operator in the project, has already seen the benefits Goddard describes. "We're utilizing fertilizer where it's needed the most," he says.

The technology could also apply to spraying herbicides only on areas that have weed problems adds Goddard.

"Just as important is this technology's conservation implications," says Goddard. "Farmer's won't just see a field as a 160-acre block. They'll see smaller areas and be able to manage those areas' soil and other resources better."

Contact: *Tom Goddard*
(403)422-4285

Agri-News briefs

Northlands to host 1998 National Hereford Show

Northlands Park will host the Canadian National Hereford Show in 1998. The show will take place during the silver anniversary of Farmfair International November 7 through 14 in 1998. Northlands won the bid to host the show that has been a feature event in Regina for the last dozen years, except when it was hosted in Toronto in 1994. "Farmfair International is extremely excited to be hosting the Canadian National Hereford Show and looks forward to assisting the planning committee to make this an international event not to be missed," says Roxanne Carr, Northlands Park agricultural manager. The Hereford show will be featured on the 1998 Farmfair poster and in communication packages sent worldwide. Duncan Porteous, general manager of the Canadian Hereford Association, says the world Hereford industry will be focused on Edmonton in 1998. "This global recognition will bring over $4 million in business activity to Edmonton and area." Hereford cattle are one of Canada's premiere livestock breeds and have been at every major cattle show in Edmonton since 1879. For more information, contact Cheryl Herchen at (403)471-7295.

WSGA centennial cattle drive entries pass 500

Entries for the Western Stock Growers' Association (WSGA) *Centennial Cattle Drive* have topped 500. "People are very excited about this historic event and we are really pleased with the response," says Roy Clark, the drive's chair. The drive, July 20 through 27 in 1996, is part of the WSGA's 100th anniversary celebrations. Organizers expect 3,000 participants, 3,000 head of cattle plus 200 covered wagons to travel the 60-mile, old cattle trail from Buffalo to Medicine Hat. "The event has gone international with people entered from New Zealand, England, South Carolina, Indiana, Montana and enquiries from Italy and Germany," adds Clark. He also notes a number of sponsors are supporting the historic drive. One of the new sponsors isPanCanadian Petroleum of Calgary. "Our company believes in establishing and maintaining good relations in the communities in which we work through community involvement and open communications," says John O'Donnell, community relations manager for PanCanadian. "The *Centennial Cattle Drive* is an opportunity to get involved at a community level with the people we work with in the ranching industry." "We are pleased to be working with PanCanadian, a company whose development and investment in Alberta parallels that of our ranching industry," adds Clark. "We work with oil companies at our ranches on a regular basis and it is exciting to involve them in a historic celebration of ranching history in Alberta." For more information about the WSGA centennial celebrations, contact co-ordinator Rhonda Clark in Calgary at (403)250-9121.

Lakeland judging team triumphs again

Two agricultural judging teams from Lakeland College in Vermilion won both team and individuals awards at the recent first ever Olds College competition. The "A" team won five of seven team awards and captured overall honors. Team members are Clint Sutter of Hardisty, Colin Toner of Kelfield, Saskatchewan; Derek Jones of Roslin, Ontario; and, James Purdy of Almonte, Ontario. The second team's members are all from Alberta—Paul Corbiere of Mallaig, Billie-Jo Mitchell of Kitscoty and Johanne Lawn of Rockyford. Corbiere was overall grand champion individual judge with Mitchell the reserve. Corbiere picked up the crop championship along with reserve positions in dairy and goats. The competition featured teams from the host Olds College and the University of Alberta. The Lakeland College judging program is sponsored by the Vermilion Agricultural Society. For more information, contact coaches Peter Walsh at (403)853-8613 or Ralph Stredwick at (403)853-8459.

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AGRI-NEWS

May 1, 1995

Horticulture's value averages over $3,300 per acre

A component of Alberta's agricultural industry that is often overlooked can no longer be undervalued says the Council of Alberta Horticulture Industries (CAHI) president.

"Our survey shows just over 48,000 acres in horticultural production generates $163 million in sales, or an average of $3,373 per acre. That figure is substantially higher than that of traditional field crops," says Henry Heuver.

For example, dryland grown hard spring wheat has a gross sales per acre of $120, as an irrigated crop the value almost doubles to $225 per acre. In comparison, the gross sales per acre of seed potatoes averages $2,350, strawberries $4,950, green onions $11,200, field grown flowers $20,320 and greenhouse poinsettias $217,000.

Only 0.23 per cent of Alberta's total land in crop production is devoted to horticulture. However, horticultural crops represent 11 per cent of total crop value.

Heuver's numbers are from the *Alberta Horticultural Industry Survey* officially recently released in Edmonton. The survey was commissioned by CAHI.

CAHI was formed two years ago as an umbrella advocacy association for the horticultural sector. Its members include 10 different horticultural related organizations.

"Our sector has been overlooked because of its small size, but its importance in the overall agriculture industry and rural development must be recognized," says Heuver

Horticulture is highly labor intensive. The survey found the provincial horticultural sector employs an average of one person per 16 acres. Nearly a quarter of gross sales represent wages. As well, high technical and management skills are required.

"Combined with the substantial room for expansion to serve the provincial market, this means job opportunities and economic growth," says Heuver. "Every additional quarter of land diversifying into horticulture offers the equivalent of 10 direct jobs and 19 spin-off ones. Additionally, every dollar of production represents saving on imports."

Heuver thanked Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister, for taking part in the survey launch "A policy and spirit of co-operation between the industry and the Government of Alberta will help the provincial horticultural industry to quickly reach its potential," he says.

Heuver also noted the partnership attitude between the industry and government, in particular the formation of the horticultural

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

product team. The team has both industry and government members and Heuver describes it "as a way in which producers can contribute to the development of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development policies and services and to a joint vision of the future."

Paszkowski says Alberta needs to be in the forefront of diversification. "These high-value crops are an excellent way for Alberta to diversify its agricultural base. After all agriculture is our future and not just our past, but that does not mean we will continue production in the same way. Especially now with the end of the WGTA and the Crow Benefit, our future lies in diversification."

The survey was funded with assistance from the federal Farm Support Adjustment Measures (FSAM 1) program.

Survey summaries are available from the CAHI office in Lethbridge.

Contact: *Neil Reid*
CAHI executive manager
(403)327-0447

Residue levels reduce wind erosion risk, weather still a factor

Two factors have combined to reduce the risk of wind erosion in Alberta this spring says an Alberta Agriculture soil conservation specialist.

"The most exciting development is the adoption of conservation management techniques in the past few years. Reduced tillage and direct seeding result in higher residue levels and leave soils better protected over winter and in spring," says John Timmermans.

"Throughout southern districts, summerfallow is better protected than in previous years," he adds.

As well, current residue levels are high. "In each of the past two years, crop yields have been good, leaving adequate residues to do the job of protecting the soil from erosion," explains Timmermans. In general, yields of the major crops have been at or above long term averages. Exceptions are parts of the North Peace and Lac La Biche areas. "Combined these the two factors – increased conservation practices and higher residue levels – appear to have left soils over winter and early spring generally well protected," he says. "However, from now until the middle of June is the time when wind erosion risk is highest, and there are some indications of danger."

Currently, soil moisture levels are low and surface soils are dry. "Timely and sufficient precipitation will be required, to supply the moisture to produce crop yields and residues for soil cover next year," says Timmermans.

The timing and amount of rainfall in spring will have an immediate effect on susceptibility to erosion. Rainfall immediately reduces the risk of erosion.

Another year of high canola acreage may also increase the wind erosion risk he adds. "Canola stubble is much less resilient than cereal stubble, and will disintegrate with the first one or two tillage passes. Extra care will have to be taken to preserve canola stubble, especially if summerfallow is planned after canola."

Timmermans notes it's important to stop wind erosion by emergency tillage or listing. "Loss of some of the soil moisture may be the result, but this is a much smaller price to pay than the loss of productive topsoil," he says.

Both soil type and weather influence wind erosion risk. Virtually any soil that is dry, smooth, bare and exposed to erosive wind can be damaged by wind erosion. However, all bare soils are not equally susceptible as Alberta soils vary widely in texture and aggregate stability. [See provincial map of relative wind erosion risk.]

During April, May and June, cropland soils generally aren't well protected by growing crops. Periods of strong and sustained wind are the biggest threat to our soils during these spring months. Cultivation prior to and during seeding reduces the surface cover of residues, making March through mid-June the time when soils are at their highest risk of erosion.

Contact: *John Timmermans*
(403)948-8539

Land management and wind erosion risk

Three types of land management systems leave soils more susceptible to wind erosion says an Alberta Agriculture soil conservation specialist.

"Crop rotations that include summerfallow, special crop production on irrigated land and continuously cropped soils managed by several tillage operations all increase wind erosion potential," says John Timmermans of the conservation and development branch

Many of the soils of southern Alberta are in the category of high or severe risk of wind erosion because normal farming practices include summerfallow.

"The good news this spring is that such areas are generally better protected. There's more good news, fallow acreage in Alberta continues to decline," he says. Longer rotations and converting land to permanent forage cover to support Alberta's beef industry both have contributed to this decline.

However, the bad news is that it's more challenging to protect fallowed soils from wind erosion.

With special crop production on irrigated land, crops such as potatoes, sugar beet, peas and beans don't leave sufficient post-harvest residues for soil protection.

"Much of special crop production is located in the windier southern districts. The soil types used are often light textured, erodible soils,"

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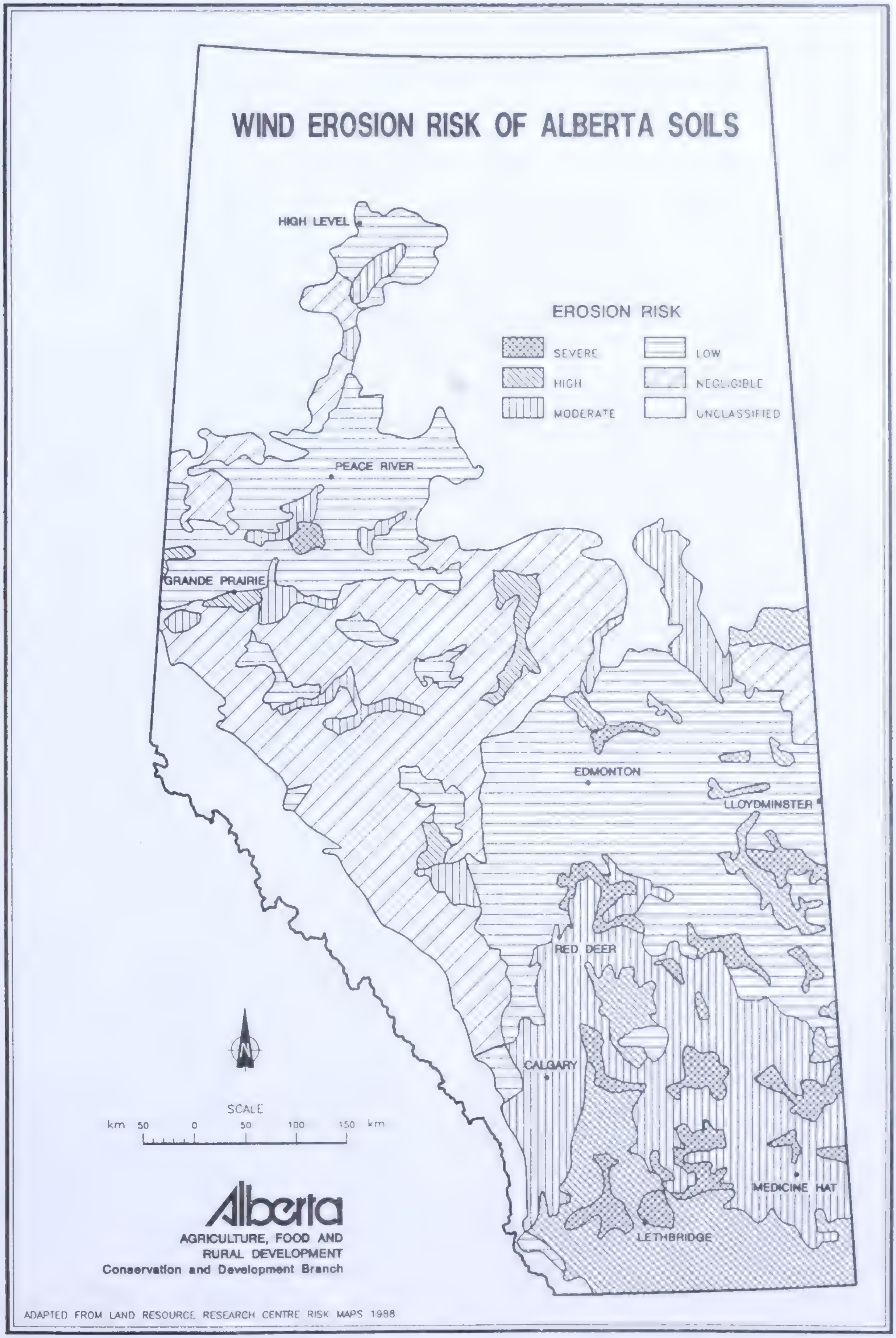

WIND EROSION RISK OF ALBERTA SOILS

EROSION RISK
▦ SEVERE
▨ HIGH
▥ MODERATE
▤ LOW
▧ NEGLIGIBLE
☐ UNCLASSIFIED
HIGH LEVEL
PEACE RIVER
GRANDE PRAIRIE
EDMONTON
LLOYDMINSTER
RED DEER
CALGARY
MEDICINE HAT
LETHBRIDGE
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SCALE
km 50 0 50 100 150 km

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Conservation and Development Branch

ADAPTED FROM LAND RESOURCE RESEARCH CENTRE RISK MAPS 1988 he notes. Preventative measures are growing cover crops to protect soils after potato harvest, listing of sandy soils before freeze-up and direct seeding.

Continuous cropping with several tillage passes including fall tillage, decreases residue. "Some fields that have eroded already this winter and spring are in this category," says Timmermans. "An extended harvest season last fall left more time for fall tillage. Several of these fields, though isolated, are now vulnerable to wind erosion."

Contact: John Timmermans
(403)948-8539

Alberta's winter was an El Nino warm and dry

Winter temperatures were above normal and precipitation was well below normal in Alberta, and the likely cause for the warm, dry winter is El Nino says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

The average seasonal temperature for November 1, 1994 to March 31, 1995 was 1.3 degrees above the 1961 to 1990 normal value. The average precipitation was 49.3 mm. This is 53.8 mm below the 1961 to 1990 average of 103.1 mm for the winter months. These averages are based on data recorded at 44 Environment Canada climate stations across the province.

El Nino is a large area of unusually warm water in the tropical Pacific. "Generally El Nino causes above normal temperatures in Western Canada," explains Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch.

While the seasonal average was just over a degree above normal, average temperatures ranged from near normal to 3.4 degrees above normal. "El Nino may have had its greatest impact in January, usually the coldest month of the year. The average monthly temperature for January was 2.3 degrees warmer than the 1961 to 1990 average of -13.3°C," he notes.

Dzikowski says it's unusual to have below normal precipitation for several months in a row, "But it did happen this winter. Some central and southern locations had four consecutive months of below normal precipitation." As well, Calgary had its fourth driest winter in the past 110 years and Lethbridge Airport had the sixth driest winter in 56 years.

For most of Alberta, precipitation totals were about 20 to 90 per cent of the 1961 to 1990 climate normal. "While this is significant, winter precipitation – November to March – accounts for only 20 per cent of the annual total. April and May precipitation is more critical," says Dzikowski.

April and May precipitation help replenish soil moisture reserves needed for seed germination and early crop growth. Root-zone soil moisture at planting can provide up to one-third of the water used in the production of annual crops. Over half of the precipitation in Alberta comes during the summer months.

On a regional basis, southern Alberta reported precipitation amounts between 10 and 100 mm, 10 to 60 per cent of normal. For example, Brooks reported 21.3 mm of precipitation, 27 per cent of its normal, while Cardston reported 93.2 mm, 56 per cent of normal.

The central region received between 45 and 90 mm of precipitation, 45 to 90 per cent of normal. Edson reported 45.2 mm, less than half of its 1961 to 1990 average. Lloydminster reported 88.8 mm, 93 per cent of normal.

The Peace region reported the most precipitation in Alberta with amounts ranging from 55 to 130 mm. Grande Prairie reported 128.9 mm, or 102 per cent of normal precipitation. "That was the most precipitation for an Alberta location between November and March," he adds.

Contact: Peter Dzikowski
(403)422-4385

Direct Seeding Days this June

If you're the type of person who needs to see to believe, then one of three *Direct Seeding Demonstration Days* is for you.

The Alberta Reduced Tillage Initiative is co-hosting the demonstration days on June 1 in Grande Prairie, June 7 in Camrose and June 27 in Barons. The co-hosts respectively are the counties of Grande Prairie, Camrose and Lethbridge

"Each field day offers direct seeding plus," says Michelle McKinnon, a member of the demonstration days committee.

"There's also the same bargain fee for each of the demonstration days, $5 per vehicle. So, gather a couple of friends and neighbors and take in the demonstration day in your area," says McKinnon

At least 10 different direct seeding units are involved in each demonstration day. "Each unit pre-seeds a plot in May so you can also see the germination pattern," she notes.

Residue management demonstrations, with straw and chaff spreader equipment, are also featured at all three field days.

"Organizers at each location are lining up a variety of equipment dealers, agrochemical companies and fertilizer dealers for static equipment displays and mini-trade shows," adds McKinnon.

In Grande Prairie, June 1's direct seeding field day is the first of a three-day event. June 2 features forage equipment, chaff spreaders, heavy harrows and shredder demonstrations. The final day has a tractors and traction clinic as well as tours of research plots.

Barons also has the added element of research plots including direct seeded fertility and alternative crop plots.

The Grande Prairie direct seeding demonstration will be held at Clairmont, one mile north of Grande Prairie on Highway 2. Activities run from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. For more information, contact Daryl Switzer at (403)532-9722.

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The June 7 Camrose event is 1.5 miles west of the city on Highway 13. It starts at 9 a.m. and runs through to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Jim Thomson at (403)672-4765.

The Barons demonstration will be one-half mile west of Barons on Highway 23. Activities get underway at 9:30 a.m. and wind-up at 4:30 p.m. For more information, contact Rob Wauters at (403)381-5119.

Contact: *Michelle McKinnon* *(403)948-8512*
Jim Thomson *(403)672-4765*
Daryl Switzer *(403)532-9722*
Rob Wauters *(403)381-5119*

Golden opportunities for food in Northern California

For Alberta food processors, finding their way into the Northern California market means getting their products on shelves in front of nearly four per cent of the U.S. population.

Ten Alberta companies started the process at a recent specialized mini-trade show in the central market location of Pleasanton, California. Over three days, company representatives met with brokers, distributors, retailers and wholesalers.

"This approach of directly linking Alberta sellers with U.S. buyers was done a year ago in the Pacific Northwest market," notes Dave Rous, Alberta Agriculture trade director.

Small and medium size companies set up table top displays with product samples in a meeting room. Individual appointments are set up for buyers, from brokers to retailers. Each buyer spends approximately two hours meeting with the Alberta companies, then the next buyer is allotted time.

"This Northern California show used the same successful tactics, and our next target is Minneapolis," adds Rous.

The emphasis is on market education and awareness on both sides. The Alberta company meets the players in that market. The market's buyers learn about quality Alberta products. An immediate sale is a bonus.

"We particularly targeted brokers for this mini-show and half the appointments were with brokers. It's extremely difficult to get into the California market without a local contact," says Arnold de Leeuw, the mission's co-organizer. He's vice-president of trade for the Alberta Food Processors Association (AFPA).

Both organizers and participating companies are pleased with the preliminary results. [See separate story.]

"The feedback so far has been extremely positive," says Rous. "Some of the companies have appointed brokers. At least one has already made sales."

Sunora Foods Ltd. of Calgary has shipped a truckload of canola oil to the Bay area. Company president Steve Bank adds his company is working with a broker on two major accounts. "The show enabled us to get a positive reception from the accounts," he says. The San Francisco market was the right target for him. He describes it as extremely health conscious and "ideally suited for our product line". Banks says his company's participation, among other things, was helpful. He could share key information about his product directly with buyers, giving them a better understanding and knowledge about canola oil. "It enhances credibility," he explains.

"Buyers were also impressed with the mini-trade show format compared to traditional trade shows, solo shows or individual appointments," says Rous. "The buyers – including Lucky's, the U.S.'s second largest chain – thought it covered a lot of ground in a minimum amount of time. Clients were also very impressed with the general quality of the Alberta products. As well, they offered good suggestions, such as packaging changes, to improve product appeal in their market."

Alberta companies on the mission included Capital Packers, Centennial Foods, Del Comal Foods, Farm Meats, Heritage Foods, Oh Chocolate, Sepp's Fine Foods, Rockport Flour, Something Special Deli-Foods and Sunora Foods.

The U.S. market continues to be the largest market for Alberta food products and the opportunities for growth are also there. "It's a matter of showing what we have to offer to U.S. buyers," says de Leeuw.

Between 1993 and 1994 the value of value-added agricultural product and byproduct exports to the U.S. increased by about 35 per cent. Leading the way were prepared cereals at 156 per cent, canola oil and other cereals (milled) at a 109 per cent, beer at 73 per cent, beef at 30.5 per cent and processed meats at 19 per cent.

The Northern California market has a population of over 9.5 million and its major cities include San Franciso, Santa Clara, Aladmeda and the state capital Sacramento.

Contact: *Dave Rous* *(403)427-4241*
Arnold de Leeuw *(403)444-2272*

Brokering into future markets

The California market beckons food processors because of its size, but it's a difficult market to get into without the right contacts says an Alberta Agriculture trade director.

"Brokers are a must for breaking into the market," says Dave Rous. "That's why we emphasized getting brokers to a recent mini-trade show in Northern California." [See related story.]

At least two of the 10 participating companies did appoint a broker as a result of the unique trade trip. During the three-day trade show buyers had individual appointments to meet with the Alberta companies.

"We accomplished our goal of appointing a broker. It usually takes months, but it happened in a few days," says Joe Makowecki of Heritage Foods

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Don Stenson of Something Special Deli-Foods also appointed a broker/distributor. He did the same in Seattle after a similar marketing mission in 1994.

Both say the quality of buyers at the show and the show's one-on-one format were factors in their success. Anyone can be at a traditional trade show notes Makowecki, but this format brings "key decision-makers" to products.

Stenson says the format is especially good for smaller companies, and the individual attention is more profitable than larger trade shows.

Rous says the unique trade-show format will be repeated in the Minneapolis area. Stenson, who has participated in the first two shows, says he'll definitely be ready to go to the Minnesota market, too.

Contact: *Dave Rous* *(403)427-4241*
Arnold de Leeuw *(403)444-2272*

New feed barley variety registered

Alberta Agriculture's barley research team at the Field Crop Development Centre in Lacombe have registered a new semi-dwarf feed barley.

Kasota (test number SD506) is a six-row, semi-dwarf barley with early maturity and high yields. "It's a breakthrough in yield-maturity combination," says Jim Helm, plant breeder and leader of the centre's cereal and oilseeds unit.

In general, feed barley yield decreases about two per cent for each day gained in maturity. However, Kasota matures three to six days earlier with equal yields to the later-maturing, high yielding feed barleys now grown in Alberta. "So Kasota gives producers a new option in early maturing varieties," explains Helm.

Other advantages are good resistance to leaf disease and lodging, and higher test weights than other semi-dwarf varieties. In some areas of the province, it may be suitable for direct combining.

SeCan Association has the marketing rights to Kasota. Demonstration plots will be grown across the province in 1995. Certified seed will likely be available in limited quantities for the 1996 crop year.

The Alberta Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) will co-ordinate the release of Kasota. "Our role is a link between the barley research team and SeCan. AARI manages intellectual property rights for continued crop variety development research," says Ralph Christian, AARI's executive director.

The institute supports barley research that will increase profitable barley production and use by Alberta farmers. Alberta already leads the nation in barley production, growing over half of Canada's barley. Producers grow both feed and malt barley. Feed barley is an integral part of both the provincial grain and livestock sectors.

AARI is a partner in the Alberta/Canada Barley Development program. The other partners are Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Contact: *Dr. Jim Helm* *(403)782-4641*
Patrick Marce *(403)427-195*
Dr. Ralph Christian *(403)422-1072*

Agri-News briefs

Co-operatives and economic conference June 12-14

A three-day conference June 12 through 14 will examine economic development and co-operatives into the 21st century. The conference will be held at the Centennial Auditorium in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Conference sessions will focus on three sub-themes: co-operatives in a changing global environment; co-operatives, community development and responding to change; and, new approaches and models for co-operative structures, principles and business practices. For more information about the conference, contact the University of Saskatchewan's extension division at (306)966-5539 or fax (306)966-5567.

Summer Farm Employment Program coming

A popular government farm labor program will be officially launched today (May 1). The Summer Farm Employment Program began in 1972. Application forms will be available next week and the application deadline is May 19. Program details including eligibility and funding will be outlined by Jack Ady, Advanced Education and Career Development's minister, and Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's minister.

Co-operators support Western Heritage Centre

The Western Heritage Centre has received a half-million dollar boost from The Co-operators, a Canadian-owned insurance company. The donation will fund a theatre at the centre. The multi-purpose venue will be known as The Co-operators Theatre. The 225-seat auditorium will be used for association presentations and business meeting, live cattle auctions, films, community presentations and other special events. The Co-operators is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 1995. The Western Heritage Centre is an interpretive centre dedicated to the history of ranch, farm and rodeo. The centre is in Cochrane. For more information, contact the centre at (403)932-3514 or fax (403)932-3515.

Beaverlodge beekeepers field day June 9

The 42nd annual *Beaverlodge Beekeepers' Field Day* will be held June 9 at the Beaverlodge Research Centre. The program will include commercial and beekeeping displays as well as research highlights. In the afternoon, researchers and provincial apiarists will speak on bee-related topics. The field day program should be available by mid-May. For more information, contact Don Nelson at Agriculture Canada in Beaverlodge at (403)354-2212, fax (403)354-8171 or Internet nelson@abrsbl.agr.ca.

Choose competition fleeces now

Spring is the time of year to start selecting fleeces for competition. Entry forms and other information are available for the Farmfair International competition in November. For more information, contact Northlands Park by writing Box 14680, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2N5 or call Jack Francis at (403)436-5992.

AIC 75th anniversary conference July 9-13

The Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC) will hold its 75th anniversary conference July 9 through 13 in Ottawa. Participants can save by registering before June. Early registration is $160, late registration is $185 and daily registration is $70. The conference theme is global realities and society's expectations. Maurice Strong, a Canadian representative at the Earth Summit, is a plenary speaker. For more information, contact co-chairs Gary Koestler or Alan Bentley at (613)957-7078 in Ottawa.

8th cowboy poets gathering in Pincher Creek June 16-18

From June 16 through 18 cowboy poets, musicians and artisans from all over Western Canada and the U.S. will gather in Pincher Creek for the eighth consecutive year of celebrating the western way of life. The *Pincher Creek Cowboy Poetry Gathering* has become one of the most popular cowboy festivals in the country. Activities include an art show and sale, poetry, music, stock dog cattle penning, evening programs, a cowboy poet Sunday service and a ranchers' rodeo. Daytime admission is $5. Evening admission is $25 and requires a pre-purchased ticket. Poets and musicians who want to participate can call Doris at (403)253-3505. For ticket information, call Tanya at (403)627-4047. For general information, contact Bev at (403)628-2115.

4-H scholarships application deadline May 15

There's only two weeks left for former and current 4-H members to get in their applications for 4-H post-secondary scholarships. The deadline for all applications is May 15, 1995. A total of 84 scholarships worth more than $45,000 are available to past and present Alberta 4-Hers attending post-secondary institutions this fall. Applications are available from all Alberta rural high schools and post-secondary institutions, regional 4-H offices and by writing the provincial 4-H office at 4-H Scholarships, Room 200, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.Criteria for the scholarships vary. While most are based on academic skills, community involvement and 4-H background, some are non-academic, some on leadership skills, and others on the area of the province you come from. For more information, contact Arron Madson in Edmonton at (403)422-4444.

Take care out there – provincial highway clean-up May 6

Thousands of young Albertans will be cleaning up Alberta highways this Saturday (May 6). "We're asking for the public's kind co-operation to be on the lookout for the young people, parents and volunteer leaders, and drive safely in the areas where the cleanup is taking place," says Mahlon Weir of Alberta Agriculture's home economics and 4-H branch. The majority of the cleaners are Alberta 4-Hers. Last year over 8,600 4-Hers gathered garbage along nearly 9,000 km of Alberta highways. 4-H club members form a majority of the cleanup workforce. They are joined by other youth organizations including Junior Forest Rangers and Scouts. For more information, contact Weir in Edmonton at (403)422-4444.

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Coming agricultural events notice

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in **the summer, fall or winter of 1995**? Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the **name, city or town, and phone number** of a **contact person** for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization). **Please include your telephone number**:

Please return this form by* May 25, 1995 *to:

Agri-News Editor
Communications Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
FAX (403)427-2861

("Coming agricultural events" is published four times a year in **Agri-News**.
The next list will be **June 5, 1995**)

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

JUN 21 1995

May 8, 1995

Applications available for Summer Farm Employment Program

Applications are available today (May 8) for the 1995 Summer Farm Employment Program (SFEP).

"While the deadline is May 19, applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis, so interested employers and employees should submit their application as soon as possible," says Christine Paproski, program co-ordinator.

"Each year, there is so much interest in the program that some applicants have to be turned away," she adds. Up to 550 young people will be accepted in 1995.

Application forms and program guidelines are available from all Alberta Agriculture district offices and Agricultural Employment Service offices.

The popular government youth farm labor program was announced last week by Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister, and Jack Ady, Advanced Education and Career Development minister.

"Helping our young people gain on-farm experience is an excellent way to invest in the future of Alberta's agriculture and food industry," says Paszkowski. "Their experiences may well encourage them to pursue a career in this area."

"This program reflects our government's priority to enable young Albertans to develop the skills, knowledge and experience needed for employment," adds Ady.

Full-time farmers receive assistance to hire young Albertans from July 1 to August 31. The Alberta government pays up to half of the employee's monthly wage to a maximum of $330 per month. Prospective employees must be 15 to 24 years of age. Producers may not employ relatives, and employment must be for a minimum of 120 hours per month.

The SFEP provides Alberta's youth with the opportunity to gain farm work experience. Since the program began in 1972, it has helped more than 34,500 young people learn more about farming.

Contact: *Christine Paproski*
(403)422-5672

Olds 4-Her receives Premier's Award

An 18-year-old high school student from Olds is the 1995 recipient of the Alberta 4-H program's highest honor.

Tracy Gardner was chosen as the Premier's Award winner at the annual Alberta 4-H Selections program in Olds, April 28 through May 1. Some 138 of the province's top 4-H members attended the personal development and group interaction weekend.

Gardner was selected from a group of finalists known as the Ambassador Group. The 1995 group members are Crista Anderson of Taber, Jodi Cunningham of Milk River, Andrea Dar of

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Wetaskiwin, Carla Dubovsky of Busby, Alison Gabert of Edberg, Charlene Preston of Hanna, Curtis Smith of Fawcett, Ryan Shumard of Grande Prairie and Amy Wisniewski of Hairy Hill.

Gardner says she's excited to have been named recipient of the 32nd annual award. "It is a great honor to represent Alberta 4-H," she adds. As one of her responsibilities she will represent Alberta at the Young Foresters Camp in Newfoundland this August.

For the last six years, Gardner has been an active member of the Eagle 4-H Beef Club. As well as holding all executive positions in her club, she has participated in various regional and provincial 4-H activities. In addition to 4-H, Gardner is involved with other youth groups.

Gardner succeeds Julie Hadwin of Consort, who received the Premier's Award in 1994.

Olds-Didsbury MLA Roy Brassard presented Gardner with the award trophy on behalf of Premier Ralph Klein and the Alberta government. Gardner will officially accept her award from Premier Klein at a later date. Brassard also extended greetings and congratulations to the other participants and award recipients.

Trip awards to 57 delegates were also announced at an awards breakfast. These 4-Hers will represent Alberta at major educational programs and tours throughout Canada and the United States over the next 12 months.

Senior Alberta 4-H members, 16 years of age and older, can participate in the selections program. Members are evaluated throughout the weekend to determine their eligibility for trip awards. The selection process includes points from their yearly 4-H diaries, a current events/4-H examination, peer evaluation and group interaction assessment by leaders.

During the selections weekend, delegates participate in activities designed to improve leadership and life skills. This year's theme was "Talkin' Type".

Selections is organized by the home economics and 4-H branch of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. It is sponsored by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Alberta Pool, United Grain Growers and Alberta Agriculture.

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Abundant supplies, stronger dollar drop meat prices

Abundant supplies are pulling down prices in cattle and hog markets says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Meat supplies – including chicken – are nearing burdensome levels. It's a good market for retailers who have plenty to choose from, but producer prices are moving downward," says Doug Walkey.

"An added problem for producers is the strengthening Canadian dollar. For example in an export dependent hog market, a higher exchange rate means lower prices," he adds. "And, the dollar is on a gradual up trend."

Combined supply and exchange factors saw Alberta hog prices slide sharply during April. At the end of March prices were around $1.34/kg and fell about ten cents by the end of April.

"As with the beef complex, the slide took prices below the five-year average and a dime below year-ago values," notes Walkey. "Given the supply overload, I anticipate the usual season price rise will be delayed – perhaps until fall."

The feeder cattle market has two categories – heavy and light. "Right now they'll act like two separate markets. Light calves stand a chance of a price rally. Demand for grass cattle will usually offer a premium for the right type of calf at the right weight," he says.

The news isn't so rosy on the heavy side. Between low projected prices for late summer fed cattle and the high price for barley, heavy feeder prices have pushed downward.

"Lots of these calves were kept home last fall in anticipation of steady price trends through to April based on what's happened in the last few years," notes Walkey.

Instead, prices for 800 to 900 lb. steers are trading five dollars under the five-year average for this time of year and a full 20 cents below last year's prices. "In fact, it looks as if the market is bent on matching the low prices of 1982," notes Walkey.

"So the outlook for heavy weight calves remains chained to a declining fat market. Seasonally, the fat market declines into summer. Given current meat supplies, there's no reason not to expect this price fall to happen," he says.

Overabundant meat supplies will also dictate the slaughter cattle price trend. During April, Alberta direct sale prices fell modestly. "A more sobering contrast comes from comparing the prices from the end of April to the prices of February and early March – a difference between $81 to $84/cwt. and $90 plus," says Walkey. "Although the downward trend was expected, it wasn't expected so quickly," he adds.

A stronger Canadian dollar also meant revising the Alberta slaughter cattle outlook. Walkey bases his new forecast on a 72.5 cent dollar, two cents higher than what he used last month.

Walkey now predicts Alberta direct sale steer (ADS-steer) prices to average $82/cwt. during May and fall to $80/cwt. through June, July and August.

Contact: *Doug Walkey*
(403)427-5376

Lamb trade in the 80s this summer

Alberta producers can look to a slaughter lamb trade in the mid-$80/cwt. range this summer says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"That's barring a sudden collapse in U.S. prices," notes Don Hansen of the market analysis and statistics branch.

Alberta slaughter and feeder lamb prices have been mostly steady through the late winter and early spring. Only modest seasonal increases came at Easter.

"This year the Easter price rise was only a few dollars, and old crop market lamb prices appear to have peaked during late February and early March," he says. "That could change if there's a run on supplies like the one last summer."

Edmonton's Easter sheep and lamb sale saw slaughter lamb prices range between $91 and $104/cwt. and average at $98/cwt. Feeder lambs, in the 60 to 80 lb. range, sold between $95 and $133/cwt.

During mid-April, slaughter lamb prices at Canada West Foods in Innisfail climbed to $194/cwt. (railgrade). New crop lambs are trading near $200/cwt. (railgrade). There's some discounting for old crop lambs.

"Canada West is continuing to offer a premium of two to three dollars for contracts that target certain fresh lamb markets," he adds.

In another market note, producers will be levied an additional 66 cents per animal for grading as part of the federal government move towards cost recovery.

Contact: *Don Hansen*
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Soymeal futures not effective as pea hedging tool

A feed pea producer would have better opportunities cross hedging with western barley than U.S. soymeal says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"The current practice of using soymeal futures as a feed pea hedging tool is simply not effective," says Matthew Machielse of the market analysis and statistics branch.

"The correlation between western barley and feed peas over the past five years is much higher than the more traditional soymeal," he adds.

Soymeal and feed peas were linked because soymeal is considered an alternative protein source to feed peas in poultry and swine rations. This is particularly true with compound feeds in Europe. However, least cost ration formulations are now factoring in both micronutrient and protein values of Canadian feed peas.

"Many factors in the recent past have weakened the link between CBT soybean meal and protein prices in Europe," notes Machielse. For example, the U.S. domestic soybean crush is currently driven by vegetable oil value and meal is priced as a byproduct.

A comparison of Canadian feed pea cash prices to nearby U.S. meal futures illustrates the poor correlation for peas and soymeal. Long-term seasonality charts show feed peas lag soymeal by about 20 weeks in establishing both an annual high and low. On average, the price swing is about the same for both, about $18 to $20 per tonne.

"The price correlation [illegible] match seasonal variation, between [illegible] barley," says Machielse

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Weather now focus of oilseed market

Oilseed markets will focus on weather developments over the next few months says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"That's assuming there aren't any surprises in seeding intentions," says Al Dooley of the market analysis and statistics branch.

"In all likelihood, there will be market rallies over the coming weeks based on real or perceived threats to 1995 oilseed crops either here in Canada or in the U.S.," he adds.

Oilseed markets did take a sharp turn down during April. "This wasn't a surprise because the South American soybean harvest is well underway and indications are for a record crop. As well, current prospects for the 1995 U.S. soybean crop look good.

"A stronger Canadian dollar and an absence of buying interest also played roles in the drop," says Dooley.

However, he adds, there are several factors that should keep the canola market from falling significantly lower. First, the 1995 crop hasn't been planted yet. Some changes to seeding intentions are possible.

"Underlying demand is still there, too. There's a home for more than five million tonnes of canola with Japan, Europe and domestic crushers," he says.

The Canadian dollar is another factor. While it has shown recent strength, it is still weak from a historical perspective. "As long as this weakness continues, prices will find some support," says Dooley.

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(403)427-5387

Spring brings both buds and bugs

If you don't want to be frustrated by a bumper crop infested with bugs, be on the look out in the spring for a variety of insects says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"While the warm spring sun brings out buds, it also brings out an assortment of bugs," explains Shelley Barkley, information officer at the Crop Diversification Centre, South.

For example, the currant fruit fly spends the winter under host plants as pupae. The adult fly emerges just about flowering time and lays eggs in the developing fruit. The maggot feeds on fruit and about the time it's ready to harvest, the maggot-infested fruit drops off. "By then it's too late. Your bumper gooseberry or currant crop is falling from the bush prematurely or you're finding worm-infested fruit," she says.

Control must come before the flies lay eggs into the fruit. One control method is to rake fallen fruit from under the bush. Spraying malathion or methoxychlor just after petal fall and again 10 days later also provides control.

The imported currant worm also attacks currants and gooseberry bushes. These insects appear twice a year, in late May and early June, then again in late June or July. This caterpillar-like pest can completely defoliate the plant in a few days.

"Spotting them is the hardest part of control since they begin feeding on the inside of the bush and work outward," she notes.

As immature larvae, the currant worm is yellowish-green with black spots, legs and head. Mature larvae are uniformly green. "When disturbed, the larvae will raise the front and rear ends of their bodies," Barkley adds.

Hand picking is one control option. Or, once found, spray with diazinon, malathion, insecticidal soap solutions or rotenone dust.

Currant aphids cause more visible damage. Red and yellow puffy blisters form on leaves' upper surface. Plants lose vigor, and if the attack is severe leaves can fall off. Fruit may be covered with a stick substance known as *honey dew*.

"If you had this problem on currants and gooseberries last year, then you'll need to apply a pesticide before the plants begin to flower this year," says Barkley.

The yellow-headed sawfly and birch leaf miner also are common spring problem insects.

"If new tender spruce needles start to disappear in June, then the sawfly could be gobbling them as they grow," she says. As the pest and its appetite grow, whole needles are eaten. Eventually the spruce will look shabby and be yellow-brown.

Newly hatched and caterpillar-like, the sawfly is yellowish-green with a yellow, red or green head. Mature insects are two cm long with a yellow or red head. The body is green with grey-green stripes running from head to tail and is waxy-looking.

"This insect looks like the needles it's eating, so actually spotting the sawfly is again the hardest part of control," she notes.

Control options include hand picking, hosing the larvae with water and using pesticides such as diazinon or Sevin.

Birch leaf miners lay eggs between leaf surfaces. Larvae eat the green out of the leaf. "These spots turn brown and look quite ugly," says Barkley. "To add insult to injury, the damage remains on the tree for the entire growing season."

For the longest control, use a soil drench with dimethoate. "The time to treat the tree is May when the leaves are fully open," recommends Barkley.

Boxelder bug, ground beetles and strawberry root weevils are also on Barkley's spring bug list. They migrate during the spring and can even wander right into a house.

"If they do get in, sweep them up and throw them back outside. If they're a perennial problem, try to find where they get in and plug the hole. Mostly they're only a problem for a short time in the spring and fall," she says.

For more information on insects, plant diseases and control, use the Alberta Agriculture *Backyard Pest Management in Alberta* guide. The $5 guide is available from all Alberta Agriculture district offices. [See separate story on other Alberta gardening resources.]

To order by credit card (Visa or MasterCard), call the department's central publications office in Edmonton at (403)427-0391 or toll-free at 1-800-292-5697. Or, send cheque or money order payable to the Provincial Treasurer to Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Please add $2 for postage and handling plus GST.

Contact: *Shelley Barkley*
(403)362-2554

Alberta perspective in garden/yard books

If you do any gardening or yard work, four Alberta Agriculture books have the specifics for our province's growing season and weather.

"By themselves or as a set of four, they are an inexpensive investment in choosing the right plants and caring for them," says Scott Reid, publishing branch head.

"All four publications were written by Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development," he adds.

The Alberta Horticultural Guide has a comprehensive list of trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables recommended for this climate. The easy-to-use format works for both the hobby gardener and serious horticulturist. Its cost is $3.

Backyard Pest Management is a practical look at over 150 common insect and disease pests. "This guide shows you how to identify weeds and pests. It lists control options, and describes proper chemical application and basic pesticide safety," says Reid. The guide sells for $5.

Pruning in Alberta and Landscaping Alberta Yards also follow the self-help pattern. Both sell for $3.

The pruning guide explains how to control and maintain trees and shrubs, improve flowering and increase fruit harvest. Avoiding common mistakes and the how-tos of planning are discussed in the landscaping book.

"All four publications are available at Alberta Agriculture district offices," notes Reid.

The publications can also be ordered from the central publications office in Edmonton. To order by credit card (Visa or MasterCard), call the department's central publications office in Edmonton at (403)427-0391 or toll-free at 1-800-292-5697. Or, send cheque or money order payable to the Provincial Treasurer to Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Please add $2 for postage and handling plus GST

Contact: *Scott Reid*
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Workshop focuses on Prairie rural water quality

Rural water quality issues will be in the spotlight at a workshop June 13 through 15 in Saskatoon.

"This workshop is an opportunity to exchange information about rural water quality issues, problems and solutions," says Bob Buchanan, the workshop chair. Buchanan is an Alberta Agriculture engineering technologist.

Buchanan says that exchange can be with a broad base of people. "The workshop should interest farmers to health agencies, small communities to agricultural and environmental officials, and water treatment equipment suppliers to researchers," he says.

Such a diverse audience should also aid another workshop objective. "One of our primary goals is to develop plans and recommendations to motivate people to work together to improve and protect rural water supply and quality on the Prairies," he adds.

The workshop itself is a co-operative effort. Sponsors include Alberta Agriculture's engineering services branch, the Saskatchewan Research Council, the Saskatchewan Water Corporation and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) and this partnerships's newsletter, the Prairie Water News.

An overview of rural water quality issues from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba perspectives will start the workshop. As well, there'll be a presentation discussing the results from a similar 1990 workshop.

Other main themes are water quality concerns for human health, drinking water treatment systems, household water treatment, small reservoir management and treatment, and water quality concerns for livestock and poultry. Also planned is a wrap-up tour on the final morning.

Before May 26, registration is $150. After that date, registration rates are $200. A student rate is available, but doesn't include meals or proceedings.

For more information, contact Buchanan in Barrhead at (403)674-8252 or fax (403)674-8309; Esther Kienholz in Saskatoon at (306)975-4772 or fax (306)975-4594 or Richard Pasquill in Brandon at (204)726-6079 or fax (204)726-6290.

Contact: *Bob Buchanan*
(403)674-8252

Newest Prairie Water News *now available*

The latest issue of Prairie Water News is now available from all Alberta Agriculture district and regional offices.

The semi-annual publication is celebrating its fifth year of bringing technical information about rural water issues to Prairie farmers. The newsletter describes itself as "dedicated to protecting and improving rural water supplies."

"Each issue highlights a variety of water topics written by specialists, researchers, farmers and industry professionals from across the Prairie provinces," says Bob Buchanan, Alberta Agriculture engineering technologist in Barrhead.

Buchanan is the author of two articles in the Spring 1995 issue. One is about water treatment devices and the other on shock chlorinating wells.

The lead story deals with farming practices and water quality. Other topics include farm dugout water treatment, using ozone to treat drinking water from dugouts and whether or not to soften hard water.

"As well, this issue highlights a rural water quality workshop that's being held in Saskatoon next month," says Buchanan. Included are the June 13 through 15 workshop agenda and registration information. [See separate story on the workshop.]

Prairie Water News is a co-operative project of Alberta Agriculture's engineering services branch, the Saskatchewan Research Council, the Saskatchewan Water Corporation and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA).

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AGRI-NEWS

May 15, 1995

CANADIANA

JUN 21 1995

Nutritious food basket added to price report

Monthly food price statistics from Alberta Agriculture now have the added feature of a *Nutritious Food Basket Price Report*.

"Forty-six foods that we price represent a nutritious food basket," says Maureen Whitlock, research assistant with the department's market analysis and statistics branch.

The basket contains all the food groups and meets nutrient needs as defined by the Canada's Food Guide to Health Eating. Foods within the groups reflect Albertans' purchasing patterns. For example in the meat and alternates group, the basket's meats represent the percentages of meat cuts a typical Alberta household consumes.

As well, the *Nutritious Food Basket Price Report* lists age/gender groups, and shows the weekly cost of each food group and total basket cost.

"These costs can provide a benchmark for families, individuals and agencies looking for guidelines to buying nutritious foods," says Linda St. Onge, foods and nutritional specialist.

"You can compare your weekly shopping list with the nutritious food basket list to see if you've included enough of the foods you need to provide a nutritious diet for yourself and your family," she adds. For example, each person needs the equivalent of 3.5 to six litres of milk per week depending on their age and gender.

This type of nutrition specific will be dealt with in "Food and Nutrition Communique", part of the *Nutritious Food Basket Price Report* package. Each communique will provide information about choosing, storing and using Alberta's nutritious foods.

The first communique focuses on milk. "There are a lot of quick facts such as why we need milk products in our diet, milk allergies and Alberta brands," notes St. Onge.

For more information about nutritious food basket pricing or to receive the *Nutritious Food Basket Price Report*, call (403)427-4011.

For more information about food or nutrition, contact St. Onge in Edmonton at (403)427-2412 or Suzanne Tenold in Airdrie at (403)948-8504. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact:	*Linda St. Onge* *(403)427-2412*	*Maureen Whitlock* *(403)427-4011*

Thistle awareness week across Prairies May 15-22

To increase awareness and understanding of the thistle problem in western Canada, the weed specialists in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta have named May 15-22, 1995 *Thistle Awareness Week*.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

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"All three prairie provinces are facing much the same problem – basically an explosion of Canada thistle," says Denise Maurice, Alberta Agriculture weed specialist. Activities throughout the Prairie provinces will help farmers learn more about the problem weeds.

As most western Canadian growers know, Canada thistle is one of the most persistent and difficult weeds to control. In fact, Manitoba Agriculture has dubbed thistle "Weed of the Year" to emphasize the serious problem thistle poses to farmers.

David Kelner of Manitoba Agriculture's soils and crops branch says thistle deserves its reputation as a tough weed to manage and points out that it can't be wiped out in a single season.

"Thistle requires a multi-year approach. Farmers should start planning as soon as possible to get it back under control," he says. "It's usually a very expensive problem to manage. You want to make sure your control plans are sound so money is spent appropriately."

Kelner also says it's important for farmers to be aware that thistle is a growing problem, and is increasing in severity. "Anything we can do to increase awareness of thistle and expand knowledge is a good thing."

Yield loss and the cost of controlling Canada thistle is $320 million annually estimates James Hunter of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Indian Head, Saskatchewan research station.

Len Juras, of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Agri-Food's sustainable production branch, agrees *Thistle Awareness Week* can only be good news for Prairie farmers. "I think it's a good idea to have a concerted effort from the three prairie provinces and a clearing house of information," he says.

Both Juras and Maurice say weather has been a factor in the thistle problem. "The weather conditions over the past two to three seasons were ideal for the establishment of Canada thistle," notes Maurice. "The cool, wet weather we've had the last couple of years has made thistle a real problem," adds Juras.

Alberta's Maurice stresses effective thistle control requires a long-term program which includes control measures, monitoring results and follow-up with appropriate measures.

Thistle Awareness Week aims at bringing home some of these measures with demonstrations and suggestions for farmers who want the latest information on controlling thistle problems in their operations.

"In Alberta, Canada thistle is second only to field horsetail in current weed surveys. Recent counts show that 35 per cent of fields in Alberta are infested with Canada thistle and every region of the province is challenged to control Canada thistle," she adds.

Only through a careful management process and a well-planned, long-term control strategy can the risk of yield losses due to Canada thistle infestations be minimized. Understanding the weed's characteristics and growth habits as well as the intricacies of control strategies is important. Producers will benefit by monitoring fields carefully and using recommended crop management practices. Without tillage or timely applications of herbicides, perennial root systems become well established.

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Len Juras
(306)787-0428

David Kelner
(204)745-2324

THISTLE
AWARENESS
WEEK

Get the facts
on a prickly issue.
Thistle Awareness Week,
May 15-22, 1995

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April was cool in '95

April temperatures were below normal and Environment Canada forecasts the cool temperatures will continue into May says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

"The average monthly temperature for April was 2.9°C, 1.1 degrees below the 1961 to 1990 normal temperature," says Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch.

This average is based on data recorded at 59 Environment Canada climate stations across the province. Average April temperatures for individual stations ranged from two degrees below normal to 0.9 degrees above normal.

Bow Island reported the warmest monthly average in Alberta at 5.2°C. This was still 1.4 degrees below normal. Cold Lake,

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Lloydminster and Esther tied for the greatest monthly average temperature departure, at two degrees below their normal.

"Environment Canada's temperature forecast for May is for below normal temperatures across Alberta, with one exception. Northern regions are expected to be near normal," he adds.

In comparison, April began with warm temperatures in southern Alberta and cool temperatures in the north. Cold air dominated the province during the first week of April, with snow along the foothills and in the Cold Lake area. The southern region received 10 to 15 cm of snow to start the second week of April. "Warmer temperatures returned to the south melting the snow and increasing soil moisture reserves," he notes.

Cool, unstable conditions with below normal temperatures, showers and wet flurries, dominated Alberta during the second half of April.

"However, precipitation was slightly below normal," says Dzikowski. The average precipitation in Alberta was 22.8 mm. This is 3.3 mm below the 1961 to 1990 average for the month.

"Lloydminster typified the month in terms of cooler temperatures and less precipitation than the norm," notes Dzikowski. "The average temperature was two degrees below normal and reported precipitation of 10.7 mm was about half of the 1961 to 1990 average."

On a regional basis, southern Alberta reported precipitation amounts between 10 and 55 mm, 60 to 120 per cent of normal. Empress reported 11 mm of precipitation, 64 per cent of normal while Cardston reported 52.7 mm, 113 per cent of normal.

The central region received between 10 and 70 mm of precipitation, 50 to 180 per cent of normal. "Lloydminster was on the low end of the scale, while Lacombe CDA reported 36.0 mm, 177 per cent of normal," he says.

The Peace region received amounts ranging between 10 and 40 mm, 60 to 150 per cent of normal. Peace River received 10.7 mm, 68 per cent of normal, while Grande Prairie got 28.3 mm or 143 per cent of normal.

Contact: *Peter Dzikowski*
(403)422-4385

Straw pulp possibilities at agripulp workshop

Straw's value as livestock bedding and residue cover for soil protection are well known. A two-day workshop later this month will explore non-traditional uses of straw pulp.

The *Alberta Agripulp Workshop* runs May 31 and June 1 in Edmonton. "The concept of using straw pulp for particle board, paper and food fiber has gained a lot of local interest in the past couple years," says Marilynn Boehm, an Alberta Agriculture development officer.

"Entrepreneurs, the forest products industry and agricultural communities across the province are among those expressing significant interest in agripulp," she adds.

Workshop sessions include a look at Alberta's straw supply and value, agripulp market and business potential, an overview of an agripulp project in southern Alberta, regulatory practices, environmental implications, credit programs for agricultural development projects and panelboard production.

"The workshop will wind up with a panel discussion featuring all the speakers," notes Boehm. Speakers include representatives from the agriculture and forest product industries as well as the government sector.

Straw pulp technologies are being used successfully in other parts of the world. "Some experts estimate that 15 to 30 per cent of the world's paper needs may not be met from traditional wood and recycle sources in the future. Agripulp is suggested as a way to fill the gap and could bring significant added return to farmers," she says.

Registration is $160.50 (includes GST) and includes lunch June 1 and refreshment breaks. Cheques can be made payable to Rural Education and Development Association (REDA) and sent to 14815-119 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta, T5L 2N9. For more information, call the REDA office at (403)451-5959 or fax (403)452-5385.

Contact: *Marilynn Boehm* *(403)427-7366*
Ted Parker *(403)427-7366*

June 1 start of Peace Direct Seeding Days

Anyone driving north of Grande Prairie on June 1 will wonder why a dozen tractors and seeders are working in the same field.

The reason is the 1995 Peace Region direct seeding equipment demonstration at Clairmont, one mile north of Grande Prairie on Highway 2. June 1's direct seeding field day is the first of a three-day event. It's also the first of a series of provincial *Direct Seeding Days*. The next two are June 7 in Camrose and June 27 in Barons.

"These equipment demonstrations are a great opportunity to see equipment actually seeding crops out in the field," says John Zylstra, Peace regional conservation co-ordinator.

"You can actually see the way they penetrate unworked soil, place seed and fertilizer, and pack soil around the seed," he adds.

Each of the twelve seeders, whether airdrill or gravity drill, will operate once in the morning and once in the afternoon. "And because this is direct seeding, there won't be any tillage before seeding," he notes.

Cont'd on page 4

A pea crop will be already emerging on part of the demonstration field. "So, as well as watching equipment work in the field, you can also see the results from the same equipment," says Zylstra.

In addition to seeding equipment, there will also be displays of spraying equipment, seeding openers, and chaff spreaders. On June 2, there will be a demonstration of forage harvesting equipment, as well as chaff spreaders and heavy harrows. Several herbicide trials and pea demonstration plots are at the site and can be viewed.

"A mini-trade show will be there, food will be available, and the weather will be favorable, we hope," he says.

The event is a joint effort by the County of Grande Prairie, the Central Peace Conservation Society, the Alberta Reduced Tillage Initiative, Monsanto, Alberta Agriculture Food and Rural Development, Alberta Pool Seed Division, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA), Alberta Prairie Care, the Canada-Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (CAESA) and participating equipment manufacturers.

For more information on the Grande Prairie *Direct Seeding Days* contact Daryl Switzer at (403)532-9722. Activities run from 10 a.m. through to 4 p.m.

The June 7 Camrose event is 1.5 miles west of the city on Highway 13. It starts at 9 a.m. and runs through to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Jim Thomson at (403)672-4765.

The Barons demonstration will be one-half mile west of Barons on Highway 23. Activities get underway at 9:30 a.m. and wind-up at 4:30 p.m. For more information, contact Rob Wauters at (403)381-5119.

Contact:	*John Zylstra*	*Daryl Switzer*
	(403)835-2291	*(403)532-9722*

Pasture water and other projects at water quality workshop

An Alberta study of pasture water quality and cattle performance will be on the agenda at a *Rural Water Quality on the Prairies* workshop June 13 to 15 in Saskatoon.

Ken Williamson, an Alberta Agriculture engineering technologist, will discuss this project during a session on water quality concerns for livestock and poultry.

Other workshop sessions will look at water quality concerns for human health, drinking water treatment systems, household water treatment, and small reservoir management and treatment.

An overview of rural water quality issues from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba perspectives will start the workshop. Bob Buchanan, another Alberta Agriculture engineering technologist, will provide both the general Alberta overview and a round-up of reservoir management and treatment projects in the province.

Buchanan, who is also the workshop's chair, says the workshop is an opportunity for a broad base of water quality stakeholders to exchange information about issues, problems and most important, solutions.

"One of the goals of this workshop, and a similar one in 1990, is to bring farmers, health agencies, researchers, small communities, agriculture and environment officials and equipment suppliers together. Not just to share information but develop strategies and motivate working together to improve and protect rural water supply and quality," says Buchanan.

One of the results from the 1990 workshop was establishing the Prairie Water News, a semi-annual publication that focuses on rural water issues, research and updates. The newsletter is one of the workshop sponsors.

Co-sponsors include Alberta Agriculture's engineering services branch, the Saskatchewan Research Council, the Saskatchewan Water Corporation and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA).

Before May 26, registration is $150. After that date, registration rates are $200. A student rate is available, but doesn't include meals or proceedings.

For more information, contact Buchanan in Barrhead at (403)674-8252 or fax (403)674-8309, Esther Kienholz in Saskatoon at (306)975-4772 or fax (306)975-4594, or Richard Pasquill in Brandon at (204)726-6079 or fax (204)726-6290.

Contact:Bob Buchanan
(403)674-8252

Agri-News briefs

Alberta 1994 State of the Environment report available

Alberta's first comprehensive *State of the Environment* report is available from the provincial environment department. The 120-page report costs $15. To order it, call Alberta Environmental Protection's information centre at (403)422-2079 in Edmonton. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator. The 1994 report describes the quality of air, water and land in the province as well as the health of forests, plants, fish and wildlife populations. The report was produced by Alberta Environmental Protection in co-operation with three other provincial departments—Alberta Energy, Alberta Health and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development—and the federal environment department. Comprehensive environmental reports will be produced every five years. Annual reports will be published on specific topics, as will fact sheets about issues and department programs. An overview brochure about the comprehensive report is also available from Alberta Environmental Protection offices across the province. For more information, contact George Rodziewicz in Edmonton at (403)427-8636.

Publications List 1995 available

Alberta Agriculture's *Publications List 1995* is now available from the publications office in Edmonton. The booklet lists over 900 publications available from the provincial agriculture department. To order the free listing, write the Publications Office at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or call 1-800-292-5697.

IVM workshops May 19, 24 and 26

Day long industrial vegetation management (IVM) workshops will be held in three Alberta locations in the next two weeks. The workshops are May 19 in the County of Lamont, May 24 in the Country of Wetaskiwin and May 26 in the Municipal District of Foothills. The IVM workshops are hosted by agricultural fieldmen in co-operation with the Industrial Vegetation Management Association of Alberta (IVMAA). Workshops include equipment displays and demonstrations, changes to the IVMAA's third edition standards and good practices manual, planning and evaluating a vegetation management program, and service approvals. For more information, contact Greg Paranich in Lamont at (403)895-2585, Gordon Walker in Wetaskiwin at (403)352-3321 or Jeff Porter in High River at (403)652-2341.

CSGA annual meeting in Halifax

The 1995 Canadian Seed Growers Association (CSGA) annual meeting is July 5 through 7 in Halifax. Reservation requests for the conference hotel, the Chateau Halifax, must be received no later than June 1. For more information, contact meeting organizer Dwayne Mellish at (902)893-6556.

Matter of Fat consumer brochure and educational kit available

Comparative amounts of fat are shown by the teaspoonful in a new consumer brochure and educational teaching kit. *Matter of Fat* was produced by the Beef Information Centre, the Canadian Pork Council and Canadian Meat Council, and was reviewed by the National Institute of Nutrition. The kit is designed to make it easier for nutrition educators, health professionals and doctors to help people identify sources of fat in their diet. The consumer booklet shows the amount of fat in various foods by the comparative teaspoonful. Each teaspoon represents four grams of fat. For more information or a copy of *Matter of Fat*, contact the Beef Information Centre in Calgary at 216, 6715-8 St. NE, Calgary, AB, T2E 7H7 or (403)275-5890.

Grain companies trade elevators

Alberta Wheat Pool, the United Grain Growers (UGG) and Pioneer Grain recently completed a series of elevator trades. Alberta Pool facilities in Bentley, Drumheller and Killam were transferred to UGG in exchange for UGG facilities in Mundare, Delia and Etzikom. Pioneer Grain will get Pool facilities in Torrington and Nanton, while the Pool picks up Pioneer's Carbon and Ponoka elevators. "The elevator trades we've initiated allow us to serve more customers in towns where we are already the major player," says Dale Riddell, the Pool's acting general manager, country division. "At each point, we're getting access to a larger car spot, which in turn generates an opportunity for incentive rates and in some cases, premiums for our customers." Riddell also says the elevator trades make good sense at this time because of impending rail line abandonment and the Pool's plans for rationalization of its country system. For more information, contact Riddell in Calgary at (403)290-4735.

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Pork Congress June 13-15

The 1995 *Alberta Pork Congress* runs June 13 through 15 at the Westerner Altaplex in Red Deer. Educational program topics include global markets, marketing heavier hogs, segregrated early weaning and alternatives for grower-finisher housing. The congress includes a trade-show and purebred swine show and sale. For more information, call the congress office in Red Deer at (403)340-5336.

Olds College receives significant software donation

Olds College's land agent program has received a quarter million dollar gift from a Calgary company. QBYTE Land Services donated speciality computer software to the college, plus another $15,000 in training for the program. "We are overwhelmed with the level of support this company is providing for our land agent program and look forward to witnessing the benefits students will reap once they enter the workforce," says Bob Bigsby, Olds College president. For more information about the Olds College Foundation, contact Sid Indig at (403)556-4641. For more information about the Land Agent Endowment Fund, contact Orest Curniski at (403)556-8207.

AGRI-NEWS

May 22, 1995

CANADIANA

JUN 21 1995

Alberta beef is on a high

Alberta's beef industry hit some high notes in 1994 with record production and record exports to two important international customers.

"Production was at its highest level ever," says livestock statistician Reynold Jaipaul. Preliminary statistics from Alberta Agriculture's market analysis and statistics branch peg provincial beef production at nearly 470,000 tonnes. This figure is for carcasses and boxed beef, and doesn't include offals.

"Alberta's cattle industry continues to demonstrate record growth," he adds. Last year's production was significantly higher than the 1990-1994 five-year average of just over 421,000 tonnes.

Record production isn't a surprise. Herd expansion has been steady since 1987. Currently the provincial herd is estimated at over 5 million head. Specifically, the July 1, 1994 provincial inventory estimate of cattle and calves on Alberta farms was 5.4 million head.

"The total number of cattle and calves on Alberta farms has more than tripled since 1950," notes Jaipaul. "Equally impressive is the growth in beef cow numbers which has more than quadrupled over the same period, to just under 1.9 million head. That figure is more than the entire 1950 provincial cattle herd of a mere 1.6 million head."

Much of the sector's growth, he says, can be attributed to the "Alberta Advantage". Advantages include a large feed grain production base, competitive grain prices, proximity to efficient world class slaughtering plants and proximity to the densely populated western United States market.

Last year Alberta's beef exports (excluding offals) to the U.S. and Japan achieved record levels. Exports to the U.S. climbed by more than 28 per cent topping $326 million. Alberta beef exports to Japan doubled from 1993's $7 million to an estimated $14.2 last year. [See related story on beef exports.]

Contact: *Reynold Jaipaul*
(403)427-4011

Alberta exports to U.S. and Japan "beef" up

In a year of record Alberta beef production, two other important records were achieved in the export market.

"Alberta beef exports to the U.S. were up 30 per cent and exports to Japan doubled in value," says Michael Adam, trade statistician with Alberta Agriculture's market analysis and statistics branch.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

"There's an important relationship between the U.S. and Alberta beef. The U.S. is Alberta's largest export customer. Live cattle and beef are the province's largest export commodities," he notes.

The quantity and value of beef exports to the U.S. were both up significantly in 1994. Export sales topped $326 million, up more than 28 per cent, while export volume rose 37 per cent from about 84,000 tonnes to an estimate of almost 115,000 tonnes.

"There are several reasons for the record Alberta beef exports to the U.S.," says trade director Dave Rous.

"There's a much greater awareness of Alberta beef's quality. That awareness has created a demand," he says. "As well, an excellent business relationship has developed between Alberta packers and U.S. buyers."

A final factor has been the favorable exchange rate. "A lower Canadian dollar makes quality Alberta beef even more attractive," he says.

Trade statistics also show Alberta exporters made inroads into the Japanese beef market in 1994. Alberta beef export values doubled from $7 million in 1993 to an estimated $14.2 million last year.

Awareness and a favorable exchange rate were also factors in Alberta's beef trade with Japan. John Cotton, senior Asia/Pacific trade director, says greater awareness of the Canadian, and more particularly the Alberta product, was the major factor.

"Alberta packers, through the work of organizations such as the Canadian Beef Export Federation (CBEF) have also become more aware of Japanese buyers' needs and the demands of the Japanese market," says Cotton.

"The current strength of the Japanese yen and recent adjustments in the beef industry have also added to our cost competitiveness," he adds.

"The 1994 statistics for beef exports, consumption and imports also show a shift in domestic trading patterns," notes Rous. Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia are major Alberta beef customers. However, less Alberta beef went to each province last year.

"This trend, a shift away from east-west trade, was predicted," he adds. "Globalization and trade agreements have given both producers and packers more market options. They've chosen the ones that lead to better profits and long-term growth."

Contact: *Dave Rous*
(403)427-4241
Michael Adam
(403)427-4011

John Cotton
(403)427-4241

Young or old – Be sun smart

Age and experience do bring wisdom, at least that's the case in statistics from a survey about Alberta farmers and sun protection.

"The farmers who are taking more protective measures from overexposure to the sun were older farmers and those who have had sunburns or skin cancer," says Karen Malyk, Alberta Agriculture protective clothing research associate.

The survey was undertaken last summer during Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) Demonstration Days. Just less than 150 farmers answered questions about their attitudes and concerns about the sun and sun protection.

A vast majority of those surveyed, about 94 per cent, said they were concerned about protecting their family from overexposure to the sun. Over half, nearly 55 per cent, said they worry about skin cancer. Seven per cent said they had, at some time, been diagnosed with skin cancer.

"Most of the surveyed farmers are wearing hats and protective clothing," notes Malyk. "About 88 per cent wear a hat and 85 per cent protective clothing.

"However, it's important to wear the right types of clothing to minimize your exposure," she adds.

Long sleeved shirts and pants are best. A hat should protect the ears, back of the neck, nose and chin. "Many farmers wear the traditional baseball cap, but it doesn't provide enough protection for the ears, back of the neck and the temples," notes Malyk.

"There's an interesting note here for the industry. Many of those baseball caps are provided free by agri-businesses and agri-suppliers. In the survey, almost 95 per cent of the farmers said they'd wear a protective hat if it was provided free of charge," she says.

Four examples of sun protective hats are the Tilley hat, a straw pith helmet, a cap with a neck flap and a small brimmed cowboy hat. Protective hats should have at least a three-inch brim.

The number of farmers who wear sunscreen is significantly lower than those who wear a hat and protective clothing. Less than 40 per cent of those surveyed said they used sunscreen.

"Sunscreen is an important part of being sun safe," says Malyk.

June 5 through 11 is *Sun Awareness Week*. For more information, contact Malyk in Edmonton at (403)427-2412, a local health unit or the Canadian Cancer Society.

Contact: *Karen Malyk*
(403)427-2412

Sun smart basics for farmers

Working smarter is the credo of the 1990s. Being sun smart is part of a farmer's work.

"Farmers are in a high-risk group for skin cancer because they can't avoid the sun during its peak hours. That's not practical when you work outdoors," says Karen Malyk, Alberta Agriculture protective clothing research associate.

"That means farmers need to protect themselves another way, by wearing protective clothing and using sunscreen," she adds. "The

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rule is 'Slip, Slap and Slop'. In other words, *Slip on a shirt, slap on a hat and slop on some sunscreen*."

Sun damage can occur any time of the year. Most people become more aware of its potential in the summer. A June *Sun Awareness Week* is a reminder to be "sun smart". The 1995 awareness week is June 5 through 11.

Sun smart basics are long-sleeved shirts, long pants, a wide-brimmed hat and sunscreen. Not just any hat will do. It should have at least a three-inch brim. "You need to protect not just your face's vulnerable spots such as nose and chin, but also your ears, the back of your neck and your temples," says Malyk.

Four examples of sun protective hats are the Tilley hat, a straw pith helmet, a cap with a neck flap and a small brimmed cowboy hat.

Sunscreen is also key to sun protection. Sunscreens with UVA and UVB protection and a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 are recommended. Look for a Canadian Dermatology Association logo on the label. This shows the sunscreen meets recommended protection levels.

"Sunscreen should be applied at least 20 minutes before going outside and then re-applied throughout the day," she adds.

For more information about sun protection, contact Malyk in Edmonton at (403)427-2412, a local health unit or the Canadian Cancer Society.

Contact: *Karen Malyk*
(403)427-2412

Provincial animal transportation study aids national framework

A recently completed comprehensive review of how livestock and poultry are transported in Alberta will help form a framework for a national livestock transportation system.

The study was undertaken by the Alberta Foundation for Animal Care (AFAC), the first regional group in Canada approached by a national steering committee to conduct a review.

"The review's objective was to provide a description of current practices, establish a benchmark to measure future change from, identify current issues, make recommendations for any needed changes and provide examples of industry initiatives in humane livestock transportation," says Ray Fenton, chair of the review working committee. Fenton is head of Alberta Agriculture's animal welfare unit.

"The final report is a compilation of input from over 100 producers, handlers, transporters, veterinarians, receivers, regulators and animal welfare representatives," notes Fenton.

Six key areas for action were recommended in the report. This includes enhanced industry communication and education, including training for livestock and poultry haulers. Other recommendations were for updated stocking densities and time-in-transit standards for all species, disposition of infirm and downed livestock, and better collection of data necessary to assess humane animal transportation and to address inadequacies in compliance.

"These recommendations clearly demonstrate that the industry itself wants to see continuous improvement," says Susan Kitchen, AFAC's manager.

Animal agriculture plays a major role in the Alberta economy. Alberta has nearly half of Canada's cattle herd, more than 30 per cent of its horses, over one-quarter of its lambs and 16 per cent of its hogs. Alberta is only slightly behind Ontario in total livestock-based farm cash receipts. The province is also home to Canada's two largest beef slaughter plants, and the largest horse and lamb slaughter plants.

"Transporting livestock and poultry is a large and essential part of the industry in this province. Our statistics show millions of animals are transported safely each year. Losses are negligible but overall handling could still be improved," Kitchen says.

One concern that came out of the study was that no one agency regulates the handling and transportation of livestock and poultry in the province. Eight separate provincial and federal laws apply. "A national policy could streamline the whole process of awareness through enforcement," she notes.

A difficult task during the review was finding meaningful statistical data. Livestock movements aren't well documented. Statistics on transportation related mortality were available from federal meat processing plants and Alberta Pork Producers Development Corporation (APPDC) indemnity fund records. The data necessary to properly assess animal suffering while in-transit isn't being collected.

Executive summaries and the full *Humane Transportation of Animals Alberta Regional Review* report are available from the AFAC office in Calgary. Write Cambrian P.O., Box 75028, Calgary, AB, T2K 6J8, call (403)777-0445 or fax (403)277-0447.

Contact:	*Dr. Ray Fenton*	*Susan Kitchen*
	(403)422-4844	*(403)777-0445*

Conference explores special crop opportunities and profits

In the eight years since the last provincial conference on special crops, both production and interest in non-traditional crops has increased significantly.

Less than 300,000 acres of special crops were grown in the province in 1987. Alberta farmers now grow nearly triple that amount of special crops with an estimated farm gate value of $100 million.

The spotlight returns to this growing agricultural sector July 25 through 27 in Calgary for the *Special Crops Conference: Opportunities and Profits*.

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"The conference program covers the entire range of sector issues, from new special crops to processing, and from the minor crops through to niche markets," says Nabi Chaudhary, conference chair. Chaudhary is manager of horticulture and special crops for Alberta Agriculture's production economics branch.

Day one starts with a session on processing, value adding and market opportunities. It's followed with new products, processing potential and niche markets.

Day two looks at some of the so-called minor crops during morning sessions. This include herbs and spices, ginseng, fibre crops such as hemp and linen flax, and essential oils. The afternoon switches to new crops including new pulse-type crops, how to market products and a market information outlook.

Day three is a tour. Conference participants will spend the day visiting processing facilities and special crop research plots.

"Conference speakers include food processors, traders, researchers and producers. There's also a national and international flavor as speakers come from British Columbia, Ontario, the U.S. and the Netherlands," notes Chaudhary.

Space is limited and pre-registration is encouraged. "There's even an early-bird registration rate," he says. "If you register before July 7, the rate is $100 and it includes the conference proceedings."

Registration after July 7 is $120. There's also a tour-only rate of $35 available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information about the conference, contact Chaudhary in Edmonton at (403)427-4005 or fax (403)427-5220; Mark Olson in Olds at (403)556-4220; or, Refe Gaudiel in Brooks at (403)362-3391. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Nabi Chaudhary*
(403)427-4005

Three-day HACCP course offered at U of A

While the technology is over 30 years old, the food safety standards of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) system haven't aged.

The HACCP technique of making food processing safer is the focus of a three-day course, *Food Safety Enhancement – HACCP,* at the University of Alberta June 14 through 16.

"This course is designed for food industry managers, technical and line operation staff," says program co-ordinator Connie Wildman. "Its aim is to help local food processing establishments design and implement HACCP plans in their own businesses. In particular, participants should get enough information from the seminar to determine the need and costs for their individual business.

"This course would also benefit people involved in the financial and legal aspects of the food industry by providing background about HACCP," she adds. "For some producers, HACCP may require facility upgrading and capital outlay."

HACCP was developed in the late 1960s by Pillsbury Foods and NASA to ensure safe food for astronauts. HACCP's history and development in North America and around the world will be covered in the course. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) plans to legislate HACCP for meat and poultry processors later this year. HACCP has also been adopted by several European countries and New Zealand.

A review of major food borne pathogens, the seven HACCP principles and economic rationale are among the course topics.

Instructors are food microbiologist James Steele, formerly with Alberta Agriculture, and Jerry Shaw of Health and Welfare Canada.

Registration is $345 and includes the course workbook. For more information, contact Wildman at the university's extension faculty at (403)492-5532 or fax (403)492-1857.

Contact: *Connie Wildman*
(403)492-5532

HACCP help available from Alberta Agriculture

Food processors interested in technical information about the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) system can come to Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's food quality branch.

"Our staff is familiar with this technique to improve food safety in processing," says Lawrence Roth, supervisor of food microbiology.

HACCP is a preventative control system that ensures food safety by anticipating and preventing hazards. Instead of relying on traditional inspection systems and finished product testing, HACCP can be applied to the whole food system from production through to processing, and even extend to consumer handling. Developed more than 30 years ago, today HACCP is used internationally.

Alberta Agriculture has developed some resources for the province's food processing industry. "Depending on the needs or the stage of the client's business, we can provide written material or supply a video produced by the department two years ago," notes Roth.

For more information about HACCP, write the food quality branch at O.S. Longman Building, 5th Floor, 6909-116 Street, Edmonton, AB, T6H 4P2. Or, call (403)427-4054 or fax (403)436-9454. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Lawrence Roth*
(403)427-4054

Summer Farm Employment Program orientation dates set

With over 400 applications submitted in the first five days, the 1995 Summer Farm Employment Program (SFEP) is as popular as ever says the program's co-ordinator.

"Because the first week of May was used for advertising this year, many of the applications are from producers who were previously unaware of the program. It's nice to see so many new employees as well," says Christine Paproski. "Unfortunately, we won't be able to accept everybody that applied before the May 19 deadline."

SFEP provides full-time farmers with assistance to hire young Albertans from July 1 to August 31. Employees must be between 15 and 24 years of age and employers may not employ relatives. Employment must be for a minimum of 120 hours per month. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Up to 550 positions were available in 1995.

An orientation seminar is offered for the summer farm employees and employers. Farm safety had been the focus. In addition to farm safety, this year the seminar has expanded to include effective communication on the farm and careers in agriculture. Seminars will be conducted by Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development specialists.

"To emphasize the importance of the topics covered in the orientation seminar, two wage support options will be offered under the program," notes Paproski.

Employers who attend the orientation seminar with their employee qualify for a 50 per cent subsidy to a maximum of $330 per month. If the employer or the employee do not attend, the employer qualifies for a 35 per cent subsidy to a maximum of $230 per month.

Nineteen seminars have been scheduled throughout the province during the first two weeks of July. The afternoon seminars begin at 12:30 p.m. and end at approximately 4:00 p.m. [See attached list for all 19 locations and dates.] All employers and employees who have been accepted into the program will be notified by mail about the seminar they should attend.

For more information, please contact Christine Paproski, program coordinator, at 422-5672.

Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister, and Jack Ady, Alberta Advanced Education and Career Development minister, announced the $381,000 program on May 1.

Contact: *Christine Paproski*
(403)422-5672

Orientation seminars schedule:

Peace River	North Peace Catholic Education and Conference Centre, July 4
Grande Prairie	Grande Prairie Regional College, July 5
Valleyview	Agricultural Society Building, July 6
Barrhead	Provincial Building, July 7
Athabasca	Nancy Appleby Theater, July 10
St. Paul	St. Paul Regional High School, July 11
Wainwright	Wainwright Comuniplex, July 12
Wetaskiwin	Wetaskiwin Training Centre, July 13
Drayton Valley	St. Anthony School, July 14
High River	Highwood Memorial Centre, July 4
Lethbridge	Lethbridge Research Centre, July 5
Medicine Hat	Provincial Building, July 6
Brooks	Medicine Hat College Campus, July 7
Strathmore	Wheatland County Inn, July 10
Hanna	Civic Community Centre, July 11
Olds	Provincial Building, July 12
Stettler	Stettler Elementary School, July 13
Rocky Mt. House	New Provincial Building, July 14
Edmonton	J. G. O'Donoghue Building, July 17
Edmonton	J. G. O'Donoghue Building, July 18

Agri-News briefs

First Canola Ride for the Heart June 4

Cyclists in Calgary, Vancouver, Toronto and Halifax will participate in the first ever *Canola Ride for the Heart* on June 4. The Heart and Stroke Foundation fund-raising event is sponsored by the Alberta Canola Producers Commission, the Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission and the Canola Council of Canada. Lethbridge is among other rides sites besides the four major centres. For more information or if you'd like to take part, contact the Heart and Stroke Foundation in Calgary at (403)264-5549 or in Lethbridge at (403)327-3239.

Field day at U of A Kinsella Ranch

A ranch day and workshop will be held at the University of Alberta's Kinsella ranch on August 3. The field day will include educational presentations and poster displays on a variety of topics and projects. Tours will show off a new bison project, burning for brush control and the ranch's synthetic cattle breeding program. For more information, contact Mick Price in Edmonton at (403)492-3235 or Gary Minchau at the ranch at (403)336-3528.

Direct Seeding Days June 1, 7 and 27

The Alberta Reduced Tillage Initiative is co-hosting direct seeding demonstration days on June 1 in Grande Prairie, June 7 in Camrose and June 27 in Barons. The co-hosts respectively are the counties of Grande Prairie, Camrose and Lethbridge. At least 10 different direct seeding units are involved in each demonstration day. There's also the same bargain fee for each of the demonstration days, $5 per vehicle. The Grande Prairie direct seeding demonstration will be held at Clairmont, one mile north of Grande Prairie on Highway 2. Activities run from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. For more information, contact Daryl Switzer at (403)532-9722. The June 7 Camrose event is 1.5 miles west of the city on Highway 13. It starts at 9 a.m. and runs through to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Jim Thomson at (403)672-4765. The Barons demonstration will be one-half mile west of Barons on Highway 23. Activities get underway at 9:30 a.m. and wind-up at 4:30 p.m. For more information, contact Rob Wauters at (403)381-5119.

25th anniversary Wanham Plowing Match

The 25th anniversary Wanham Plowing Match takes place June 23 through 25. Daily and three-day admission rates are available. Limited tickets are available to the closing supper and awards. For more information, contact Shirley Wells at (403)694-3915 or Betty Gruise at (403)694-3947.

Prairie water quality workshop June 13-15

Rural water quality issues will be in the spotlight at a workshop June 13 through 15 in Saskatoon. An overview of rural water quality issues from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba perspectives will start the workshop. As well, there'll be a presentation discussing the results from a similar 1990 workshop. Other main themes are water quality concerns for human health, drinking water treatment systems, household water treatment, small reservoir management and treatment, and water quality concerns for livestock and poultry. Also planned is a wrap-up tour on the final morning. Before May 26, registration is $150. After that date, registration rates are $200. A student rate is available, but doesn't include meals or proceedings. For more information, contact Bob Buchanan in Barrhead at (403)674-8252 or fax (403)674-8309, Esther Kienholz in Saskatoon at (306)975-4772 or fax (306)975-4594, or Richard Pasquill in Brandon at (204)726-6079 or fax (204)726-6290.

Stockmen's range management course in Peace River

A two-day stockmen's range management course will be held in Peace River on June 26 and 27. Key topics are range and pasture management, riparian management, range condition judging, forest grazing, plant identification and tame pastures. The course will provide an informal setting for all participants to share and gain practical knowledge about northern rangeland resources and their management. Participants will spend time outdoors for some of the course work. The course is sponsored by the Alberta Cattle Commission, Alberta Agriculture's public land services and the Northern Alberta Grazing Association with assistance from a number of other organizations. Registration is limited to 40 participants. The fee is $80 per individual or $120 per couple. For more information, call Donna Lawrence in Peace River at (403)624-6345.

New IVMAA manuals available

The latest editions of new Industrial Vegetation Management Association of Alberta (IVMAA) manuals are now available. The fourth edition of the *Field Manual for Rehabilitating Soils Affected by Residual Herbicides* was revised to include references to the new Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act. It also has new information on site, vegetation and soil assessment, soil rehabilitation, revegetation, and maintenance and monitoring. The member cost is $25 and $30 for non-members. The third edition of *Industry Standards and Good Practices for Vegetation Management* includes both new and updated information. This includes updated work standards that parallel recently released national standards. The guide and reference manual is $50 for members and $75 for non-members. For more information, contact the IVMAA office in Calgary at (403)244-4905.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

May 29, 1995

JUN 21 1995

An average, not a cool spring

It only seems to be a cool, late spring in comparison to last year's weather says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

"There has been considerable comment about the late spring this year. Most locations are well behind last year, by as much as two and a half weeks in southern Alberta," says Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch.

"This is a good example of a situation where last year, which was unusually early, is used as a reference. However, it doesn't provide a meaningful comparison to the long-term conditions," he adds.

Although the winter was mild, the lack of snow cover may have permitted more frost penetration into the soil, thus causing slower soil warming this spring.

While well below last year's totals, this spring's heat units are near or above normal. "Total heat units since April 1 show this year is pretty close to normal at most locations, and actually above normal in north central and Peace regions," he notes.

Alberta has averaged about 68 heat units – growing degree days above 5°C – from April 1 to May 14, 1995. This is six units above the 1961 to 1990 normal. These averages are based on data recorded at 59 Environment Canada climate stations across the province.

The concept of growing degree days, also called heat units, relates temperature with crop growth. At this time of year, most locations in Alberta can expect to gain 30 to 40 degree-days above 5°C each week.

The following table lists heat units for 1995, 1994 and the long-term average for the five agricultural regions in Alberta.

For more information, contact Dzikowski in Edmonton at 422-4385.

Contact: *Peter Dzikowski*
(403)422-4385

Comparison of Heat Units for April 1 to May 14

Region	1995	1994	1961-90 Average
Southern	65	163	67
Central	57	138	63
Northeast	69	125	63
Northwest	73	139	54
Peace	90	110	53
Provincial Average	68	140	62

Source: Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
Conservation and Development Branch

This Week

An average not a cool spring

Summer cure for devastating swine virus

Good biosecurity to prevent TGE

June 12 deadline for FBMI proposals

Sunscreen building block of sun protection

Test your sun sensitivity

Some skin cancer facts

Dairybytes puts balance into rations

New options to pay for home study courses

Briefs

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Summer cure for devastating swine virus

The good news is that summer sun and warmth should spell the end of an outbreak of transmissible gastroenteritis (TGE), a deadly swine virus.

"TGE isn't common in Alberta, but 11 cases have been confirmed in the province and we're investigating another 10 to 15," says Julia Keenliside, Alberta Agriculture swine veterinarian.

While the virus survives in the cold, sun and warmth kill it. "As the weather warms up, TGE should fizzle out," she says.

The highly contagious virus causes diarrhea and vomiting. Pigs will be off their feed and listless. It's most severe in piglets. Producers can lose up to 100 per cent of piglets under the age of two weeks.

One reason TGE is so deadly is because there's no effective treatment or vaccine she adds. "The only way to reduce piglet losses is to practice 'feedback' where you spread the virus quickly through the herd to stimulate immunity. Producers should contact their veterinarian for assistance."

Producers can prevent the disease by practising good biosecurity. This means controlling traffic in and out of the farm and pig barn. [See separate story for details.]

Contact: Dr. Julia Keenliside
(403)422-4844

Good biosecurity to prevent TGE

Preventing the spread of the devastating transmissible gastroenteritis (TGE) virus means practising good biosecurity says an Alberta Agriculture swine veterinarian.

"Controlling traffic in and out of your farm, particularly anyone who has had contact with pigs is the key," says Julia Keenliside.

This means neighbors and children as well as vehicles such as a feed truck. The virus can be carried on mud on a vehicle's wheels. Wild birds can also carry the disease.

"Communication is also important," she adds. "If you have TGE on your farm, let people know. If they know, they can take steps to prevent spreading the disease."

It's been nearly two decades since the last major outbreak of TGE in Alberta she notes. "We're not sure why this outbreak occurred, but are following up all the confirmed cases."

To date about a dozen cases have been confirmed. More than 10 others are being investigated.

Farmers who suspect TGE in their pig herd should contact their veterinarian. "We're also asking all veterinarians to report TGE cases to us," says Keenliside.

For more information, contact Keenliside in Edmonton at (403)422-4844. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Dr. Julia Keenliside
(403)422-4844

June 12 deadline for FBMI proposals

The call is out to government agencies and private sector firms for 1995-96 Canada/Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI) project proposals.

"Proposals will be accepted until June 12," says Anita Lunden, provincial FBMI program co-ordinator.

Three types of projects are eligible for funding. They are farm business management training, resource development and testing, and train the trainer.

"Anyone submitting a proposal should also keep in mind the program priorities that were set when the federal government renewed Canadian Farm Business Management Initiative funding in the last budget," adds Lunden.

The first priority is helping farmers face the challenges of adapting to new business realities. Those new realities include elimination of the Crow Rate and tripartite programs, changes to GRIP and crop insurance programs and the impact of international trading agreement. An example project would be teaching farm managers skills needed to effectively manage risk.

A second priority is to provide new farm management resources and new ways of accessing resources and training. This means funding will be directed away from traditional class-room based training and toward alternative development of management tools, information and services. An example would be video conferencing.

Another priority is projects that enhance farm business management trainers' and consultants' knowledge and skills. "As well, we're looking to reduce project duplication and emphasize collaboration between agencies, individuals and provinces. FBMI encourages joint venture projects," she says.

There are eligibility criterion. The institution, agency or group must have training and experience in farm management, and demonstrate competence and organization. Applicants must also be willing to comply with administrative procedures required by the program. Applications should include all information and materials required in the application form and guide.

"If you have any questions or need more information, contact the FBMI representative in your area or in the area where you want to conduct the project," notes Lunden.

The southern representative is Craig Smith in Glenwood. Call him at (403)626-3448 or fax (403)362-3461.

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Delin Sheehan-Millang is the central region representative. Contact her in Stettler at (403)742-7500 or fax (403)742-7527.

The Peace region representative is Nan Barlett. She is located in Fairview at (403)835-4288 or fax (403)835-5332.

Arla Trueblood is the northwest representative. Based in Dapp, contact her at (403)945-3745. The fax number is the same.

"Currently, the northeastern position is vacant. So, if you're in the northeast region, call either the central or northwest representatives," says Lunden.

For more information, contact Lunden in Olds at (403)556-4240.

Contact: *Anita Lunden*
(403)556-4240

Sunscreen building block of sun protection

One of the basic rules of being sun smart is using sunscreen and there's a good reason why says Alberta Agriculture's protective clothing research associate.

"Sunscreens and sunblocks protect you from the sun's ultraviolet radiation," says Karen Malyk. "This radiation can cause skin cancer."

Sunblocks create a barrier that reflect and scatter light. Lotions absorb ultraviolet rays and stop penetration into the skin.

"However, you must buy products that have appropriate ingredients. The product should protect you from both UV-B and UV-A rays. Look for Parsol 1789, benzophenone and oxybenzone for UV-A protection, and PABA or methoxylcinnamates for UV-B protection," says Malyk.

Sunscreens should have a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15. Look for a Canadian Dermatology Association logo on the label. This shows the sunscreen meets recommended protection levels.

"Remember, to be effective, the sunscreen needs to be applied at least 20 minutes before you go outside and also needs to be reapplied throughout the time you're outdoors," says Malyk.

There's added protection in wearing tightly woven long-sleeved shirts and pants. "Research analysis has shown ultraviolet rays can penetrate through spaces of the yarn. So, the thicker the fabric, the better the protection," she notes. As well, darker colors provide more protection. Dry fabrics are better protectors than wet fabrics.

"Wearing a hat also provides added protection to vulnerable areas on your head and face including nose, chin, ears, back of the neck and temples," she says.

"A wide-brimmed hat with at least a three-inch brim, or one with a back flap that covers the neck are better choices than a standard baseball cap," she adds. Four examples of sun protective hats are the Tilley hat, a straw pith helmet, a cap with a neck flap and a small brimmed cowboy hat.

Sun Awareness Week, June 5 through 11, would be a good time to start following the "Slip, Slap, Slop" rule to sun protection suggests Malyk. "The rule is '*Slip on a shirt, slap on a hat and slop on some sunscreen*'," she says.

For more information, contact Malyk in Edmonton at (403)427-2412, a local health unit or the Canadian Cancer Society

Contact: *Karen Malyk*
(403)427-2412

Test your sun sensitivity

While everyone is at risk of skin cancer, some people are more sensitive to sun than others.

"No matter your skin type, you should take care and protect your skin. However, people in the high risk zone should be especially carefully to protect their skin from sun damage," says Karen Malyk, Alberta Agriculture protective clothing research associate.

"Answering a dozen questions can determine your sun sensitivity,' she adds. [See chart on page 4.]

"Do it for *Sun Awareness Week*," she suggests. The national awareness week is June 5 through 11.

As the test scores indicate, everyone is at risk. Farmers are particularly vulnerable because they work outdoors. "That means they should protect themselves every day – spring, summer, fall and even during winter and on cloudy days," notes Malyk.

For more information, contact Malyk in Edmonton at (403)427-2412, a local health unit or the Canadian Cancer Society.

Contact: *Karen Malyk*
(403)427-2412

Some skin cancer facts

Because the lifetime risk of developing a skin cancer in Alberta is one in seven, Albertans need to be know how to prevent skin cancer and recognize its signs.

"First, it's important to note that skin cancer can be prevented if you take proper precautions," says Karen Malyk, Alberta Agriculture protective clothing research associate.

The Canadian Dermatology Association recommends avoiding the sun during peak hours of 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you have to be in the sun, use protection such as hats, sunscreens, sunglasses and clothing. The association also recommends protecting yourself everyday, even if it's cloudy.

The main cause of skin cancer is the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation. There are three types. UV-C rays are absorbed by the ozone layer and don't reach the Earth's surface. The ozone layer also absorbs most of the UV-B rays. Currently, an estimated 10 to 30 per cent of UV-B rays get through the ozone layer. These rays penetrate the outer layer of the skin, altering cells and causing cancer.

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Sun Sensitivity Test

Your risk of skin cancer is related to your skin type and the amount of time you spend in the sun. How vulnerable are you?

	Yes	No
I have red or blonde hair	☐	☐
I have light-coloured eyes – blue, green or gray	☐	☐
I always burn before I tan	☐	☐
I freckle easily	☐	☐
I have many moles	☐	☐
I had two or more blistering sunburns before I turned 18	☐	☐
I lived or had long vacations in a tropical climate as a child	☐	☐
There is a family history of skin cancer	☐	☐
I work outdoors	☐	☐
I spend a lot of time in outdoor activities	☐	☐
I am an indoor worker but like to get out in the sun as much as possible when I am able	☐	☐

- Score 10 points for each **YES**
- Add an additional 10 points if you use tanning devices, tanning booths or sun lamps

Scores

(80 - 100) You are in the high-risk zone. Protect your skin from the sun. Examine your lifestyle to see what changes you can make.
(40 - 70) You are at increased risk. Follow sun protection tips and take all possible precautions.
(10-30) You're still at risk. Carry on being careful.

Sun Sensitivity Test courtesy of Dr. Neil Shear, University of Toronto

UV-A rays penetrate deep into the skin causing cell damage that accumulates over a lifetime. This accumulation increases the cancer risk.

"It's interesting to note that many cases of cancer now are related to tanning patterns of 20 and 30 years ago," notes Malyk.

There are three basic types of skin cancer – basal cell, squamous and melanoma. Basal and squamous cells make up the skin's outer layer. Cancers of these cells are very common and easily treated. More than 93 per cent of all skin cancers fall into these two categories. About 3,000 cases are diagnosed annually in Alberta.

Malignant melanoma is a much more serious form of skin cancer and can be fatal. It's related to repeated periods of brief exposure to intense sunlight.

Cancer danger signs can be seen in moles or pigmented (colored) spots on the skin. There are four signs of potential malignant melanoma. Asymmetry means one half of the spot doesn't look like the other half. Border irregularity, color variations within an area and a diameter larger than six mm are other signs.

"If any of your moles or pigmented spots show one of these signs, consult your doctor right away," advises Malyk.

For more information, contact Malyk in Edmonton at (403)427-2412, a local health unit or the Canadian Cancer Society.

Contact: *Karen Malyk*
(403)427-2412

Dairybytes puts balance into rations

Dairybytes is the newest computer software program available from Alberta Agriculture's home study program.

"This easy-to-use software program offers a quick method for balancing or checking dairy rations," says Faye Douglas Phillips co-ordinator of the home study program.

"Producers can balance all the major nutrients and most of the micro-nutrients with this program," says Rick Corbett of the beef and dairy group. "The program calculates the nutrient values of the rations based on the amount of each feed selected."

The program was developed jointly by the home study program and the beef and dairy group.

Dairybytes can balance rations for heifers, dry cows and lactating cows. It teaches ration balancing principles and techniques. Users can modify nutrient requirements and check existing rations for recommended nutrient levels. Another valuable feature is the capability to formulate batch mixes such as grain mixes, supplements or total mixed rations.

The program includes a report feature and can print 10 different reports including ration evaluation, grain feeding guides and economic analysis.

"You need an IBM-PC or IBM compatible computer with a hard drive, 512K internal memory and CGA graphics or better to use Dairybytes," notes Douglas Phillips.

Dairybytes costs $175 plus GST. Canadian orders from outside Alberta require an additional $2 (plus GST) handling fee and U.S. orders a $5 fee. All other countries add a $20 handling fee.

Cheques should be made payable to the Provincial Treasurer. VISA and Master Card orders can also be accepted. Send payment to Home Study, Alberta Agriculture, 2nd Floor, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Cont'd on page 5

Home study offers a number of courses in financial and business planning, livestock production and crop production. Most are in a workbook format. Three other computer programs are available. They are COWSHIP$, Cowbytes and Farm Financial Planning Worksheets.

For more information, contact Douglas Phillips at (403)427-2171 or Corbett at (403)427-8906. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Faye Douglas Phillips* *(403)427-2171* *Rick Corbett* *(403)427-8906*

New options to pay for home study courses

You can now buy an Alberta Agriculture home study program directly from the department and also have the option of making the purchase with your credit card.

In the past, home study course participants had to register for their courses through the Rural Education and Development Association (REDA). Now they can buy them directly through the home study program office.

"This should make buying one of our 20 courses easier," says Faye Douglas Phillips, home study program co-ordinator. Cheques can be made payable to the Provincial Treasurer. VISA and Master Card will also be accepted for payment

Alberta Agriculture district offices have brochures listing all the home study courses as well as samples of each. Brochures and more information are also available from the home study program by calling (403)427-2171. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

The home study program offers a variety of agriculture-related courses for study and use at home. "Participants can set their own timetable to use the courses. It's a convenient way to study a particular aspect of your farm business," says Douglas Phillips.

There are three main subject areas – livestock production, crop production and financial and business planning – and a total of 20 courses. Most are in a binder-workbook format and range in price from $15 to $50. Four of the courses are computer programs ranging in price from $75 to $300.

For more information, contact Douglas Phillips at (403)427-2171. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Faye Douglas Phillips* *(403)427-2171*

Agri-News briefs

Beef Congress June 21-22 in Red Deer

The *Alberta Beef Congress* runs June 21 through 22 at Red Deer's Westerner Park. The congress includes a trade show, educational seminars, stock dog demonstration and the Alberta Wheat Pool Cattlemens' Futurity'95. Educational topics include trends in beef carcass evaluation, market trends, the right to use water and grazing alfalfa. For more information about the congress program, call the Red Deer Chamber of Commerce at (403)374-4491 or fax (403)343-6188.

Forage Council AGM and tour June 13

The Alberta Forage Council (AFC) will hold its annual general meeting and tour June 13 in Grande Prairie. The business meeting runs in the morning at the Stanford Inn. The tour goes during the afternoon. For more information, contact AFC manager Laurel Aitken at (403)929-2019.

Canadian 4-H Council meets in Kanaskis

Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture's minister, will be one of the special guests at the 1995 Canadian 4-H Council annual meeting's banquet on June 1. The council's 64th annual meeting runs from May 31 through June 4 in Kananaskis. Two lifetime honorary members will be inducted at the banquet. They are Albertans Les Usher and Don Matthews. Both men have long and distinguished histories with 4-H at the national level. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture will receive a golden anniversary certificate marking 50 years of support. As well, three national associations – Cattlemen's, Charolais and Simmental – will be presented with silver anniversary certificates. As 1995 marks the beginning of the Canadian 4-H Foundation's 25th anniversary, the organization's founding trustees will be presented with special certificates. As well, a special fund-raising auction for the foundation will take place on June 4. For more information, contact Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch in Edmonton at (403)422-4444.

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National Library of Canada
Bibliothèque nationale du Canada
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Irrigation diploma now at LCC

It's the only program of its kind in Canada. Lethbridge Community College now offers a two-year irrigation technology diploma. Students can apply to start the program in September. Irrigation technology will provide students with the technical knowledge and skills for a wide-range of water resource related work. Students will have a "living lab" experience as a number of local and provincial agencies as program co-operators. For more information about the new irrigation technology program, contact the college at (403)382-6951.

Stockmen's range management courses June 16 and 20

One-day stockmen's range management courses will be held in Big Valley on June 16 and Rocky Mountain House on June 20. Key topics are range and pasture management, range condition judging, forestry grazing, plant identification, weed control and riparian area management. Courses will provide an informal setting for participants to share and gain practical knowledge about rangeland resources and their management. Participants will spend time outdoors for hands-on experience. Registration is $20 and includes lunch. The courses are sponsored by the Alberta Cattle Commission, Alberta Agriculture's range management section, the Grey Wooded Forage Association, the Battle River Research Group, Duck's Unlimited and the Municipal District of Clearwater. For more information, call Frank Gazdag at (403)845-8240.

CANADIANA

JUN 21 1995

AGRI-NEWS

June 5, 1995

How to STOP DED

Stopping Dutch elm disease (DED) depends on help from the general public, particularly that people don't bring firewood into the province.

"Bark beetles that carry the deadly fungus breed under the bark of dead and dying elm wood. Infected elms chopped into firewood carry the disease," says Janet Feddes-Calpas, Alberta Agriculture Dutch elm disease technician.

Bringing elm firewood from a DED-infected area into Alberta is also illegal she adds. "That's why all firewood is confiscated at the Canada/U.S. border and put into specially marked bins for proper disposal."

Both Montana and Saskatchewan have the elm bark beetles and DED. "Because provincial border crossings aren't monitored, we rely on the public not to bring in firewood from Saskatchewan," she notes.

There are three firewood disposal bins at Alberta interprovincial border sites. Two are on the Saskatchewan border. One is at the Walsh Information Centre on Highway 1 and the other at the Lloydminster Information Centre on Highway 16. A third bin is at the Crowsnest Pass on Highway 3 for people coming into the province from B.C.

"It's also not safe to store or sell elm wood in Alberta," says Feddes-Calpas. "To reduce beetle breeding areas, all dead elm branches, logs or trees should be properly disposed of by either burning or burying."

People should also be familiar with DED symptoms, monitor their elm trees regularly and take preventative measures. Leaves that first wilt, then curl, shrivel and finally brown are symptoms. Wilting will show up about mid-June. In mid-summer, the tree will flag, or show yellow in the crown area. As well, the DED fungus also changes the color of the sapwood under the bark to dark brown or black.

Feddes-Calpas says it's important elm trees be well maintained and vigorous. This means removing dead branches and trees, then properly disposing of them."Pruning should be done during the trees' dormant season when bark beetles aren't active, about October through March," she says.

From April through mid-August, elms should be well watered. Thoroughly soak under the tree canopy, the dripline, to a depth of 30 to 60 cm, every two to three weeks depending on the weather "Watering is one of the most important elements of tree care. The amount of water you apply to keep a lawn healthy isn't enough to satisfy the needs of an elm tree," notes Feddes-Calpas.

She adds people should get professional advice before fertilizing their elms. "Over-fertilizing may result in trees being more attractive to elm beetles, so check with a professional first."

For more information on DED and its prevention, contact Alberta Agriculture's Crop Diversification Centre, South in Brooks at (403)362-3391 or the Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease (STOPDED) at (403)221-4693. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Janet Feddes-Calpas
(403)362-3391

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

DED deadly to elms

Dutch elm disease (DED) is a devastating fungal infection that has claimed millions of elm trees across many parts of North America.

Estimates are the disease has claimed more than half the 70 million landscape elm trees in the U.S. and millions more in Eastern Canada. DED first appeared in Ohio in 1930 and has spread to most of the elm trees on the continent. Although it appeared on the Canadian Prairies in 1975, to date Alberta has been free of the disease.

The deadly wilt disease causes elms to die back completely in one to three years. It's caused by a fungus, *Ophiostoma ulmi*, and can be spread by native and European elm bark beetles. The latter are in Saskatchewan and Montana.

Beetles that live under the bark of diseased trees or firewood from diseased trees carry the fungus to healthy trees. They bore underneath the bark, hollow out galleries and deposit fungal spores in healthy wood as they feed.

The fungus also grows into the water conducting system of the tree and eventually plugs it. Without adequate water, leaves on infected trees wilt, curl and then turn brown.

These symptoms generally show up in mid-June. In mid-summer, the tree will show yellowing in the crown area. This is often referred to as flagging. The DED fungus also changes the color of the sapwood under the bark to dark brown or black. This stain is another early sign of infection.

"The stain is the only symptom not associated with other wilt diseases," says Janet Feddes-Calpas, Alberta Agriculture Dutch elm disease technician. Feddes-Calpas encourages the general public to be aware of what they can do to prevent the disease. "The most important thing is to not bring elm firewood into the province," she says. "Both Saskatchewan and Montana have DED." [See story on prevention]

For more information on DED and its prevention, contact Alberta Agriculture's Crop Diversification Centre, South in Brooks at (403)362-3391 or the Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease (STOPDED) at (403)221-4693. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Janet Feddes-Calpas*
(403)362-3391

Wait and see for DED in Calgary

The coming season will tell whether or not Alberta is still free from Dutch elm disease (DED) says Alberta Agriculture's Dutch elm disease technician.

One of the disease carriers, European elm bark beetles, were found last fall in Calgary. The beetles were discovered in 20 of 32 traps set up throughout the city to monitor for the beetles. The other carrier, or vector, is the native elm bark beetle which hasn't yet been found in Alberta.

"We won't know until mid-June to early July whether the beetles have brought the deadly fungus with them," notes Janet Feddes-Calpas.

"After decades of guarding against these vectors, this is the first time in history that a large number of elm bark beetles have been found in Alberta," she adds. The suspected source of the infestation is elm firewood brought illegally into Alberta from the U.S.

Symptoms of DED generally don't show up until mid-June when tree leaves first wilt, then curl, shrivel and finally brown. In mid-summer, the tree will show yellowing in the crown area. This is often referred to as flagging. The DED fungus also changes the color of the sapwood under the bark to dark brown or black. This stain is another early sign of infection.

"All these symptoms, with exception of sapwood staining, are also characteristics of several other wilt diseases that can affect elms, but aren't fatal. So, positive identification of DED should be made at a qualified lab," says Feddes-Calpas.

For more information on DED and its prevention, contact Alberta Agriculture's Crop Diversification Centre, South in Brooks at (403)362-3391 or the Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease (STOPDED) at (403)221-4693. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Janet Feddes-Calpas*
(403)362-3391

Something for nothing during video preview week

If you don't believe you can get something for nothing, visit your local Alberta Agriculture district office during the free video preview week June 19 through 23.

"We want to show off the about 20 new Alberta Agriculture-produced videos just added to each of our office's video libraries," says Ken Blackley, multi-media branch information officer.

"So, come into your local Alberta Agriculture district office during free preview week and you can watch one of these new video in-house at absolutely no cost," he adds. "Also at no charge, you can also see our library clips tape with scenes from over 50 of our productions."

Among the new productions are *Diagnosing Canola Problems*, *Iron Beasts: A Guide to Tractor Maintenance*, a three-part series on *Water Wells That Last* and the two-part *The World Trading Game*. "No matter your interest, we've got something new, from how to produce a cattle show and high quality hay for Asia, through to the business of agriculture and range management," notes Blackley.

Cont'd on page 3

As well, all other titles will be available for in-house viewing at $1 per video. Each district office has about 100 different titles.

An annual Alberta Agriculture video membership costs $12 for individuals or $25 for organizations. "Not only can you borrow from your local district office, you also have access to the over 700 titles at the central multi-media library in Edmonton," says Blackley. "It's one of the best bargains around."

Contact: *Ken Blackley*
(403)427-2127

Alberta Made connects with nutrition

Summer and people feeling good are a natural link. Albertans especially enjoy what the season offers.

"Part of the enjoyment should be eating well," says Suzanne Tenold, an Alberta Agriculture foods and nutrition specialist. "That means a healthy diet following the recommendations of *Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating*."

The guide is just that. It recommends the amount of foods from four food groups Canadians need to eat each day. "The guide also emphasizes the importance of balance and variety to fulfil your nutritional requirements," she adds. Copies of the food guide are available from all local health units.

"We're very fortunate here in Alberta because we have almost unlimited choice when we go into a grocery store or supermarket. So, it's easy to make choices based on the food guide and not be limited to one or two items within a food group," notes Tenold.

Alberta Made foods can be part of this nutritional balance and variety. "Alberta food processors provide a wide array of products – from cheeses and pastas, to breads and meats. There's also Alberta grown vegetables and fruits," she adds.

Alberta Agriculture has a series of fact sheets that discuss the nutritional connection between Alberta products and *Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating*. The *Healthy Eating – Connecting with Alberta Foods* series looks at the meat, dairy, legume, grain and vegetable and fruit connections.

These factsheets are available by contacting Tenold at Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Centre, Bag 1, Airdrie, AB, T4B 2C1 or by calling (403)948-8504. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

June is traditionally Alberta Made month, a time for consumers to be more aware of food products made in their province. Alberta Made logos (see above) can be seen on store shelves and on products.

Contact: *Suzanne Tenold*
(403)948-8504

Coping with winter injury on evergreens

A very mild winter in southern Alberta, and other parts of the province, has shown up in brown needles on evergreens this spring.

"Winter drying of needles occurs in abnormally warm winters because moisture is continuously lost through the needles and can't be replaced because the roots are dormant. Moisture in both tree stems and branches becomes exhausted," says Shelley Barkley, information officer at the Crop Diversification Centre, South in Brooks.

"On warm, sunny winter days the sun's radiation or reflection from snow and buildings can increase leaf temperatures to 20$C above air temperature. If snow is limited, then so is the protection it offers from drying," she adds.

The browning can occur on a few branches at the top, on one side or over an entire tree. Cedar leaf scales fade from green to light tan or reddish brown. Spruce and pine needles turn brown. Colorado blue spruce can turn a purplish-brown. Juniper branches or branchlets turn brown or orange.

"The color change adversely affects both the appearance and growth of highly prized evergreens," she notes. "Severe injury may cause the loss of most needles and the plant can die."

To help plants with winter browning, Barkley advises to keep them well-watered during the spring and summer. "But, don't drown them," she adds.

Fertilize lightly, if at all. Keep the trees pest-free.

"Careful pruning is needed to restore an evergreen's shape and form, but wait until you're sure what's dead and what's going to grow," recommends Barkley.

Contact: *Shelley Barkley*
(403)362-3391

Alberta Agriculture appointments

Provincial swine veterinarian appointed

Julia Keenliside is the new Alberta Agriculture provincial swine veterinarian. Her responsibilities include co-ordinating provincial programs such as herd health, liaison with veterinarians and applied research on current swine health issues in the province. Keenliside is a graduate of the University of Guelph's veterinary medicine program (1987) and also completed a MSc in swine production/epidemiology in 1993. "I'm really enjoying Alberta and look forward to working with the pig industry here," says Keenliside. Her previous job experience includes veterinary service manager for Ralston Purina's animal feeds division in Woodstock, Ontario. Originally from London, Ontario, Keenliside's background includes raising Caesarian-derived piglets for the Ontario SPF program. She can be contacted in Edmonton at (403)422-4844.

Peace region has new soil management specialist

Richard Lussier is the new soil management specialist based in the Peace region's Spirit River district office. As a member of Alberta Agriculture's regional advisory services team, Lussier will be a resource to other district specialists, producer groups, agri-businesses, applied research groups and individual farmers. His focus will be soil fertility, soil conservation and problem soils in the Peace region. Lussier says he's very familiar with those issues. "I grew up in the Peace region, my education has been geared to soil science and so has my work," he says. He grew up on a farm in the McLennan area. For the last three years, he worked as a soil physics/management research technician at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Station in Beaverlodge. His previous work experience includes summer jobs with the Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association (SARDA) and the Alberta Agriculture Vegreville district office. Lussier holds two degrees from the University of Alberta; a BSc in agriculture with agronomy and soil science specialities and a MSc in soil science. He can be reached in Spirit River at (403)964-3597 or 1-800-769-2260.

Agri-News briefs

Alberta Dairy Congress June 8-10

The annual *Alberta Dairy Congress* runs June 8 through 10 at Leduc's Black Gold Centre. Events include a trade show, dairy goat show, provincial judging school, Jersey and Holstein shows and sales, a speaker on mastitis control and fun events. For more information, contact the Leduc Chamber of Commerce at (403)986-8108.

CAESA awards $1 million to researchers

Renewal funding of over $1 million for 21 projects has been awarded to Alberta agriculture and food researchers through the Canada-Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (CAESA). Nineteen of the supported applied research proposals addressed one or more of CAESA's main priority areas: soil conservation (nine projects), water quality and quantity (six projects), pollution control and water management (three projects and wildlife habitat (one project). Two projects deal with alternative pest control. A list of the projects and more information is available from Barry Olson at (403)381-5884 or fax (403)381-5765.

Early bird rate for July Special Crops Conference

If you register before July 7 for the *Special Crops Conference: Opportunities and Profits*, the rate is only $100 and includes the conference proceedings. The conference runs July 25 through 27 in Calgary. Space is limited and pre-registration is encouraged. The conference program covers the entire range of sector issues, from new special crops to processing, and from the minor crops through to niche markets. The third day is a tour of processing facilities and special crop research plots. Registration cheques should be made payable to the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute and sent to Alberta Agriculture, Productions Economics Branch, #303, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. For more information, contact Mark Olson in Olds at (403)556-4220, Refe Gaudiel in Brooks at (403)362-3391 or Nabi Chaudhary in Edmonton at (403)427-4005.

Cont'd on page 5

New AFAC executive

A Cleardale beef producer is the new chair of the Alberta Foundation for Animal Care (AFAC). Jim Fiest is a director of both the Western Stock Growers' Association and the Alberta Cattle Commission. Vice-chair is Peter Schuld, a dairy and beef producer from Ironsprings. The AFAC board has 13 directors representing 11 founding members and two directors-at-large. For more information, contact Fiest at (403)685-3911 or Susan Kitchen, AFAC manager in Calgary, at (403)777-0445.

Western Canada Agronomy Workshop July 5-7

The 1995 *Western Canada Agronomy Workshop* will be in Red Deer July 5 through 7. Organized by the Western Canada Fertilizer Association, the program covers a wide range of agronomy topics including crop rotation, cropping systems, manure management, soil tests, direct seeding, herbicide resistance and weed management. Registration at the door is $90. Conference proceedings are available for $20. For registration information, contact Jacqueline Gautier at the Potash & Phosphate Institute of Canada in Saskatoon at (306)652-3535 or fax (306)664-8941.

Temple Grandin featured at Olds seminar June 13

Temple Grandin, a renowned livestock handling specialist from Colorado State University, will be featured at a one-day seminar at Olds College on June 13. Anyone interested in improving livestock handling and transportation should attend the seminar. Among the program topics are animal welfare, basic behavior and handling, facility design, temperament testing of cattle and reducing stress. Registration is $75 and includes lunch. For more information, call Olds College at (403)556-8377.

Coming agricultural events

Direct Seeding Demonstration Day
Camrose June 7
Jim Thomson-(403)672-4765-Camrose

Alberta Dairy Congress
Black Gold Centre
Leduc June 8-10
Deb Hofstra-(403)387-5398-Millet

Beaverlodge Beekeepers' Field Day
Agriculture Canada Beaverlodge Research Centre
Beaverloge June 9
Don Nelson-(403)354-2212-Beaverlodge

Legacy Classic VII Llama Preview, Open House and Sale
Westerner Grounds
Red Deer June 9-10
Western Exposition-(403)343-7800-Red Deer

Economic Development and Co-operatives into the 21 Century
Centennial Auditorium
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan June 12-14
University of Saskatchewan Extension-
(306)966-5539-Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Rural Water Quality on the Prairies Workshop
Sands Hotel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan June 13-15
Bob Buchanan-(403)674-8252-Barrhead;
Esther Kienholz-(306)975-4772-Saskatoon, Saskatchewan;
Richard Pasquill-(204)726-6079-Brandon, Manitoba

Alberta Pork Congress
Westener Exposition Grounds
Red Deer June 13-15
Pat Kennedy or Eve Dorohy-(403)340-5307-Red Deer

25th Women of Unifarm Annual Meeting
Green Way Inn
Lacombe June 15-16
Shirley Dyck-(403)451-5912-Edmonton

Western National Canadian Goat Society Show
Fort Macleod Arena
Fort Macleod June 15-17
Carolyn Brocca-(403)756-3309-Stirling

8th Pincher Creek Cowboy Poetry Gathering
Pincher Creek Agricultural Grounds and Community Hall
Pincher Creek June 16-18
Tanya (403)637-4047-Cremona;
Bev-(403)628-2115-Pincher Creek

Stockmen's Range Management Course
Rocky Mountain House June 16
Big Valley June 20
Frank Gazdag-(403)845-8240-Rocky Mountain House

7th International Symposium on Agriculture and Food Processing Wastes (ISAFPW95)
Hyatt Refency
Chicago, Illinois June 18-20
ASAE-(616)429-0300-St. Joseph, Michigan

Annual ASAE International Meeting
Hyatt Regency
Chicago, Illinois June 18-23
ASAE-(616)429-0300-St. Joseph, Michigan

Alberta Cattle Commission Semi-Annual Meeting
Red Deer Lodge
Red Deer June 19-20
Ron Glaser-(403)275-4400-Calgary

Alberta Beef Congress
Westerner Park
Red Deer June 21-22
Red Deer Chamber of Commerce-(403)374-4491-Red Deer

Western Farm Progress Show
Exhibition Park
Regina June 21-24
Exhibition Park-(306)565-0565-Regina, Saskatchewan

25th anniversary Wanham Plowing Match
Wanham June 23-25
Shirley Wells-(403)694-3915;
Betty Gruise-(403)694-3947-Wanham

Stockmen's Range Management Course
Peace River June 26-27
Donna Lawrence-(403)624-6345-Peace River

Unifarm Provincial Summer Council Meeting
Norseman Inn
Camrose June 26-27
Shirley Dyck-(403)451-5912-Edmonton

Canadian Special Crops Association 9th Annual Convention
Westin Hotel
Calgary June 26-28
Doris Haller or Don Dever-(204)947-5394-Winnipeg, Manitoba

Direct Seeding Demonstration Day
Barons June 27
Rob Wauters-(403)381-5119-Lethbridge

Breton Plots Field Day
Breton Plots
Breton June 30
Jim Robertson-(403)492-6466-Edmonton

Canada Day Buck Show
Wildwood July 1
Sue Teefy-(403)785-2349-Sangudo

Alberta Horse Improvement Program, draft horse section
Stampede Park
Calgary July 5
Les Burwash-(403)948-8532-Airdrie

Western Canada Agronomy Workshop
Capri Centre
Red Deer July 5-7
Terry Roberts-(306)652-3535-Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Seeds in Time – Canadian Seed Growers Association '95 meeting
Chateau Halifax
Halifax, Nova Scotia July 5-7
Dwane Mellish-(902)893-6556-Truro, Nova Scotia

Northern Alberta Canola Production Centre Summer Tours
Rolla July 7
Grande Prairie July 14
Garry Coy-(403)694-2027-Wanham

Calgary Stampede
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary July 7-16
Michel Higginbotham-(403)261-0162-Calgary; or, 1-800-661-1260;
Bob Dinning-(403)261-0101-Calgary

75th Annual Conference Agriculture Institute of Canada – Global Realities and Society's Expectations"
Ottawa, Ontario July 9-13
Gary Loestler-(613)995-9554 or
Alan Bentley-(613)957-7078-Ottawa, Ontario

10th International Farm Management Conference
University of Reading
Reading, England July 10-16
Centre of Management in Agriculture-
(44)01734-351458-Reading, England

Agricultural Service Boards Tour
County of Forty Mile No. 8
Foremost July 11-14
Vernon Arnold-(403)867-3530-Foremost

Provincial 4-H Beef Heifer Show
Bashaw Agricultural Grounds
Bashaw July 15-18
Henry Wiegman-(403)422-4444-Edmonton

Annual Summer Education Agricultural Institute
Lethbridge Community College
Lethbridge July 16-23
Betty Gabert-(403)427-2171-Edmonton;
John Calpas-(403)320-3311-Lethbridge

Hort Week
Olds College
Olds July 17-21
Olds College-(403)556-4684-Olds

Cyanamid Learning Centre Tour
Community Centre
Carseland July 18
Jim Harren-(403)630-6945 or (403)278-5779-Calgary

Central Alberta Canola Production Centres Summer Tours
Innisfail July 18
Vegreville July 20
John Mayko-(403)764-2593-Mundare

Westerner Days 1995
Westerner Grounds
Red Deer July 19-23
Western Exposition-(403)343-7800-Red Deer

Southern Alberta Canola Production Centres Summer Tour
Lethbridge July 20
Doug Moisey-(403)642-2098-Warner

Provincial 4-H Dairy Show
AgriCentre, Westerner Grounds
Red Deer July 21-22
Henry Wiegman-(403)422-4444-Edmonton

Special Crops Conference
Marlborough Inn
Calgary July 25-27
Nabi Chaudhary-(403)427-4005-Edmonton;
Beata Lees-(403)381-5237-Lethbridge

Indian Head Zero Tillage Field Day
Indian Head, Saskatchewan July 25 and 26
Judy McKell-(306)695-4250-Indian Head, Saskatchewan

Official Grand Opening Camrose Pea Plant
Camrose July 28
Bruce McKinnon-(403)460-3415-Edmonton

World Sheep and Wool Congress
Three Counties Showground
Malvern, Worcester, England July 31-August 3
Royal Agricultural Society of England, National Ag. Centre,
Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LZ

Alberta 4-H Horse Classic
Olds College
Olds August 2-4
Henry Wiegman-(403)422-4444-Edmonton

University of Alberta Ranch Field Day
Kinsella Ranch
Kinsella August 3
Mick Price-(403)492-3235-Edmonton;
Gary Minchau-(403)336-3528-Kinsella

Region 17 Horse Show
Centrium
Red Deer August 4-6
Western Exposition-(403)343-7800-Red Deer

Sustainable Development on the Great Plains Conference'95
Fort Garry Hotel
Winnipeg, Manitoba August 8-10
Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce-(204)942-3011, ext. 273;
Garry Enns-(204)944-8484-Winnipeg, Manitoba

North American Weed Management Association Annual Conference
Holiday Inn
Billings, Montana August 9-11
Terry Turner-(406)265-5481, ext. 65-Harve, Montana, USA

Provincial 4-H Judging Competition
Olds College and Olds Agricultural Society Grounds
Olds August 11-13
Henry Wiegman-(403)422-4444-Edmonton

Poultry Science Association Annual Meeting
University of Alberta
Edmonton August 14-18
Martin Zuidhof-(403)427-5320-Edmonton;
Bob Hardin-(403)492-3232-Edmonton

Western Canadian Futurity American Saddlebred Horse Show
Cetrium
Red Deer August 19-20
Western Exposition-(403)343-7800-Red Deer

Canadian Nationals Western Division Dressage Championships
Centrium
Red Deer August 25-26
Western Exposition-(403)343-7800-Red Deer

Alberta Hunter Horse Show
Westerner Grounds
Red Deer September 2-4
Western Exposition-(403)343-7800-Red Deer

Equifair and Spruce Meadows Masters
Spruce Meadows
Calgary September 6-10
Randy Redorak-(403)974-4260-Calgary

Milk Policy on Trial – International Dairy Federation Symposium
Hofburg Palace
Vienna, Austria September 12-13
IDF General Secretariat-32-2-733-98-88-Brussels, Belguim

Alberta Horse Improvement Program, light horse section
Westerner Fairgrounds
Red Deer September 16-17
September 23-24
Les Burwash-(403)948-8532-Airdrie;
Bob Coleman-(403)427-8906-Edmonton

Canadian Reined Cowhorse Supreme
Westerner Grounds
Red Deer September 29-October 1
Western Exposition-(403)343-7800-Red Deer

International Perspectives on Rural Employment – 7th annual Rural Policy Conference of the Agriculture and Rural Restructuring Group
Coaticook, Quebec October 11-14
Ray Bollman-(613)951-3868-Ottawa, Ontario

Westerner Dairy Showcase'95
Westerner Grounds
Red Deer October 27-28
Western Exposition-(403)343-7800-Red Deer

Prairie West Horticultural Trade Show
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton November 2-3
Dianne Hore-(403)489-1991-Edmonton

Total Ranch Management in the Northern Great Plains
Swift Current, Saskatchewan November 2-3
Zoheir Abouguendia-(306)778-8294-Swift Current, Saskatchewan

North American Equipment Dealers Association Annual Convention
Hyatt Regency
Chicago, Illinois November 2-4
David Ottawa-(314)821-7220-St. Louis, Missouri

First Annual North American Agricultural Equipment Conference
Hyatt Regency
Chicago, Illinois November 4-5
Robert K. Schnell-(314)878-2304-2304-St. Louis, Missouri

Northlands Farmfair'95
Northlands AgriCom and Sportex
Edmonton November 4-12
Michele Weitzel-(403)471-7260-Edmonton

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
Exhibition Place
Toronto, Ontario November 7-18
Sue Bundy-(416)393-6411-Toronto, Ontario

Winds of Change – Farm Management in Uncertain Times, 1995 Farm Business Conference
Capri Centre, Red Deer, Alberta November 7-8
Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan November 15-16
Victoria Inn, Brandon Manitoba, November 28-29
London Convention Centre, London, Ontario December 5-6
Tammy or Corie-(204)944-5683-Winnipeg;
toll-free 1-800-665-8147

AgriTrade'95
Westerner Grounds
Red Deer November 8-11
Western Exposition-(403)343-7800-Red Deer

Seed Technology Workshop
Olds College November 15-17
Bill Witbeck-(403)782-4641-Lacombe or (403)340-7152-Red Deer

1995 Alberta Sheep Symposium
Capri Centre
Red Deer November 24-26
Wray Whitmore-(403)427-5380-Edmonton

100th Annual Western Stock Growers' Assocation Convention
Marlborough Inn
Calgary November 28-December 1
Pam Miller or Rhonda Clark-(403)250-9121-Calgary

Alberta Cattle Commission Annual General Meeting
Fantasyland Hotel
Edmonton December 4-6
Ron Glaser-(403)275-4400-Calgary

Alberta Pulse Growers Commission Annual Meeting
Fantasyland Hotel
Edmonton December 6-8
Janette McDonald Adam-(403)782-7838-Lacombe

Seed Growers Workshop
Olds College December 11-12
Bill Witbeck-(403)782-4641-Lacombe or (403)340-7152-Red Deer

1996

Canada West Equipment Dealers Association Annual General Meeting and Convention
Westin Hotel
Edmonton January 11-13
William Lipsey-(403)250-7581-Calgary

Horse Breeders and Owners Conference
Capri Centre
Red Deer January 12-14
Les Burwash-(403)948-8532-Airdrie

Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants Annual Meeting
Westin Hotel
Edmonton January 18-20
Bill Witbeck-(403)782-4641-Lacombe

Alberta branch Canadian Seed Growers Association Annual Meeting
Westin Hotel
Edmonton January 30-February 1
Bill Witbeck-(403)782-4641-Lacombe or (403)340-7152-Red Deer

1996 Conservation Workshop, Farm Progress Days and ACTS 18th Annual Meeting
Westerner Park
Red Deer February 22-24
Peter Gamache-(403)422-4385-Edmonton;
Russ Evans-(403)936-5306-Calgary;
Pat Kennedy-(403)347-4491-Red Deer

Western Stock Growers' Centennial Cattle Drive
Buffalo to Medicine Hat July 20-27
Rhonda Clark-(403)250-9121-Calgary

Editor's Note: Alberta communities host a number of local fairs. Because there are so many, they are not listed here. However, an annual list of agricultural society fairs is compiled by the agricultural education and community services branch. The booklet is available by writing Alberta Agriculture Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Please quote Agdex 007.

Coming agricultural events notice

National Library of Canada
Bibliothèque nationale du Canada
3 3286 50442 7804

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions in 1995? Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the **name, city or town, and phone number** of a **contact person** for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization). **Please include your telephone number**:

Please return this form by* August 24, 1995 *to:

Agri-News Editor
Communications Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
FAX (403)427-2861

("Coming agricultural events" is published four times a year in **Agri-News**.
The next list will be **September 4, 1995**)

AGRI-NEWS

June 12, 1995

CANADIANA

JAN 22 1997

Agriculture surfs the Internet with Project Barley

Some 130 Alberta farmers have begun surfing the Internet in an eight-week Alberta Agriculture pilot project.

They are participating in Project Barley, a pilot project designed to introduce farmers to the Internet information superhighway and the wide variety of agricultural information available to them through this electronic system.

"Project Barley will demonstrate how the Internet can be used to communicate the latest, most up-to-date agricultural information," says Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's minister. "Just as farmers were historically the first to put technology to work, Alberta barley farmers will continue the tradition of identifying and adapting to the ever-changing modern technology."

Project Barley's superhighway surfing mascot, Duke, will greet participants as they log on to the department's pilot project on the Internet. Duke received his name in honour of the barley variety, as well as in recognition of famous Hawaiian surfer Duke Kahanamoku.

"With a focus on production and marketing information, Project Barley will help farmers make more informed decisions. And that means money in the bank for them," says Paszkowski.

Project Barley will help users get current information on a variety of subjects including crop management, crop pests, farm equipment, soil fertility, irrigation, harvesting, marketing, market outlook, markets and costs of production. Via Project Barley, the provincial agriculture department will give users directions to get agricultural information from universities, agribusinesses such as Alberta Pool, provincial and federal government agriculture departments, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Participants will have the opportunity to take part in a barley discussion group where they will exchange ideas and information. They will also be available to communicate among themselves and with Alberta Agriculture specialists.

In addition to the project participants, farmers without computers will be able to access the Internet through computer-kiosks in 13 district offices and the Highway 14 Community Futures Office in Viking.

Districts involved in the project include Grande Prairie, Stony Plain, Leduc, Vegreville, Camrose, Wetaskiwin, Lacombe, Stettler, Innisfail, Olds, Three Hills, Airdrie and Strathmore

Participants will be able to get information on-line and will not need to wait for publications to be printed or seminars to be

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This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

organized. Access to information will also be made easier because participants can log on to the "net" at their convenience from their homes any time of the day.

"Convenient access to state-of-the-art technology and cutting edge information. That's what Project Barley is all about," says Paszkowski.

After the pilot project ends and participants provide feedback on the service, Alberta Agriculture plans to expand the depth and breadth of the information it provides on the Internet. More information on barley, as well as other commodities and products, will be added to create a comprehensive electronic service available to farmers and their families across Alberta.

"As we look at expanding the amount of agriculture information available on the Internet, we will work in partnership with agriculture associations, universities and research centres, and the private sector to make sure that our electronic information and services complement, not compete, with information already available," says Paszkowski. "Alberta farmers will be able to use electronic information and services not only from Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, but also from the rest of the world."

Contact: *Dwight Dibben/Brian Hlus*
(403)427-2137
Darwin Daviduk
(403)427-2101
Ron Weisenburger
(403)427-2417

Wheat market fundamentals looking good

A relatively small Canadian crop and few negative factors should lead to attractive sale prices for the 1995 wheat crop says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

Canadian farmers intend on seeding about two per cent more acres to wheat this year. "Given normal yields, that means a crop of about 24 to 25 million tonnes," says Al Dooley of the market analysis and statistics branch.

Weather, as always, is a key to what direction the market will go. For example, problems in winter and spring wheat growing areas in the U.S. may cut into yields there. Late seeding, both here and in the U.S., doesn't necessarily lead to lower yields but it does increase the probability yields will be affected by frost or heat at the wrong time.

One possible negative to the good pricing scenario could be the impact of the U.S. and European export subsidies in the new crop year. "EEP subsidies have been on the rise for a few months. Should this rising trend continue, grower returns would be affected," notes Dooley.

Unsettled weather has strengthened feedgrain markets on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border in the last month. New crop oats and western barley futures are at attractive levels, with October oats futures now over $130/tonne. "That's the highest level oats have hit since the spring of 1989," he notes. Western barley futures are below their highs for the November contract, but remain at attractive levels from an historic perspective.

Wet weather in the U.S. corn belt is directing these strong prices. "While there's some market talk about a repeat of the 1993 crop year, a lot can happen on the weather front between now and harvest," says Dooley. "Staying tuned to the weather does take you a long way in figuring out where prices are headed."

Contact: *Al Dooley*
(403)427-5387

Honey market sweet

There's a sweet outlook for Western Canada's honey producers says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"New crop offers have been in the 75 to 80 cent per pound range," notes Matthew Machielse of the market analysis and statistics branch.

A large portion of Canadian honey production is expected to head south into the U.S. One reason is a 141 per cent import duty the U.S. Department of Commerce slapped on Chinese honey.

"The import duty decision won't be finalized until August or September. It's likely the International Trade Commission (ITC) will lessen the duty, and some Chinese honey may return to the market. This could weaken prices here," he says.

Machielse says the price increase should hold into the fall. "The biggest market factor is the ITC decision. If you're a producer, take advantage of the strong market now," he suggests.

Contact: *Matthew Machielse*
(403)427-5387

Short supplies strengthen lamb prices

Tight lamb supplies in both Canada and the U.S. have made Alberta's outlook for summer lamb positive says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"A downsized U.S. flock should keep supplies tight and support lamb prices," says Don Hansen of the market analysis and statistics branch.

U.S. lamb and mutton production fell six per cent from 1994 levels during the first quarter of 1995. Forecasts for 1996 indicate production could decline by as much as eight per cent.

"There've been reports of packers scrambling for lambs and continued increases in the carcass and cutout prices have boosted slaughter lamb prices above pre-Easter levels," notes Hansen.

In Edmonton, mid-May sales saw slaughter lamb prices trade between $92 and $112/cwt. with an average of $108/cwt.

Cont'd on page 3

"Interestingly, this surpassed the Easter sale where slaughter lamb prices averaged $97/cwt.

"Don't expect those highs to continue," he adds. "Going into summer, look for the slaughter lamb trade in the $85 to $95/cwt range as retail demand weakens."

Contact: *Don Hansen*
(403)427-5387

Hog markets rally in May

Alberta hog prices rallied back closer to seasonal trends during May says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"The $1.35/kg price range looks good against recent prices, but pales in comparison to the five-year average of $1.47 for this time of year," says Doug Walkey of the market analysis and statistics branch.

The end of the Canadian dollar's upward trek also helped stabilize Alberta hog prices. "Now that the dollar has crested and may be entering a horizontal pattern for a while, hog prices can enjoy the rising U.S. prices without interference," he says.

"Converting U.S. prices to their Canadian equivalent provides a bit of insight into trends and our place in the cycle," he adds.

U.S. cash and futures prices are the other pieces of good news in the hog market. "For a change, there was some optimism and good news from the USDA Cold Storage Report that was bullish on bellies. In other words, pork stocks in the freezer are lower than general industry expectations," notes Walkey.

More good news came in lower slaughter numbers. "However, rising feed prices could trigger more herd liquidation early in the summer," he adds.

Contact: *Doug Walkey*
(403)427-4011

Look to fall recovery in cattle markets

Slaughter cattle prices face pressure on three fronts says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Large meat supplies, captive supplies and the permanent issue of exchange rates have been and will continue to be factors in a downward trend of cattle prices," says Doug Walkey of the market analysis and statistics branch.

"The downward trend should be modest through the summer and prices should recover into fall," he adds.

Meat supplies in both Canada and the U.S. are a continuing concern. As reported by CanFax, Canadian beef production is up seven per cent and pork production four per cent compared to 1994. Chicken supplies have risen over 12 per cent. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports 1996 per capita meat supplies as potentially five pounds heavier.

"Oversupply drops prices is a basic rule of economics," he notes.

Captive supplies is a current hot market topic. Captive supplies are animals contracted, pre-owned by packers or formula priced. "The effect is that packers already have animals scheduled for their plants and don't need to bid actively for cattle on the cash market," he explains.

"The claim is that this removes competition for cattle from the market and that the price determining mechanism is less accurate. The real fear is that prices are lower than they should be," he adds. "This fear is probably overstated because surveys show over 70 per cent of U.S. slaughter cattle are competitively priced."

On the exchange rate front, the news is a little better. "We may be getting a rest as the Canadian dollar appears to have peaked and may begin trading sideways. This is always a two-edged sword because although it's easier to buy machinery and feeders when the dollar is up, it's much more lucrative to sell meat when the dollar is down," says Walkey.

Fed cattle markets are following somewhat the same trend as the slaughter market. "Feeder prices are volatile but basically moving sideways. They seem to vary between sales, but haven't declined like they did through April," he says.

The outlook is for steady to slightly higher prices over the summer and into the fall.

"Light calves will lose their grasser premium, returning to more traditional price relationships with their heavier relatives. Calves likely to finish in the later fall should enjoy seasonally rising prices as we move into summer," he adds.

Contact: *Doug Walkey*
(403)427-4011

Farm Operations Cost Guide puts it all together

The *Farm Operations Cost Guide* puts together all the information you need to calculate farm machinery costs and set custom farming rates.

"This guide replaces two previous publications by combining their information into one package. It will also save you a dollar as the new guide is $5 and the *Custom Rates Survey Summary* and *Farm Machinery Cost Guide* both were $3," notes the guide's editor, Gerard Vaillancourt of Alberta Agriculture's publishing branch.

Alberta Agriculture has provided an annual survey of custom rates, rental rates and farm machinery costs since 1975. Both former publications were popular.

However, author Lorne Erickson of the farm business management branch in Olds, says merging the two provides farm operators with a better picture of how to calculate custom rates along with information about custom rates in their area.

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Part one of the up-dated and easier to use guide summarizes custom work and rental rates during 1994. Part two provides information about the cost of owning and operating farm machinery. Both sections have introductions that explain how to use the information.

The final section shows how to calculate farm machinery costs and provides example worksheets and space to do calculations. "The cost calculations are intended for use as approximates," notes Erickson.

"If a farmer or potential custom operator needs more help with using the guide's material, they should contact their local Alberta Agriculture district office or farm management specialist," says Erickson.

Farm Operations Cost Guide is available for $5 plus GST at all Alberta Agriculture district offices. It can also be ordered from the central publications office in Edmonton.

To order by credit card (Visa or MasterCard), call the department's central publications office in Edmonton at (403)427-0391 or toll-free at 1-800-292-5697. Or, add $2 for postage and handling plus GST, make cheques payable to the Provincial Treasurer and send to 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Contact: Lorne Erickson
(403)843-2201 or (403)556-4240

Tree co-operation between province and PFRA

A new agreement between the Alberta and federal governments won't change how you order trees, just their source.

The Crop Diversification Center, North – the former Alberta Agriculture Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton – will continue to provide trees for farmstead and livestock windbreaks.

"These trees are available on a cost-recovery basis," says Brendan Casement, Alberta Agriculture shelterbelt specialist. Some 26 varieties are available through this program.

"The change is with trees for the field shelterbelt program," he adds. These trees will be grown by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) Shelterbelt Centre in Indian Head Saskatchewan. Tree seedlings will be shipped from there to Edmonton for distribution.

These tree seedlings are provided free-of-charge for field, multi-purpose and wildlife shelterbelts through a federal/provincial program. Shelterbelts must be a straight row at least one-half kilometre (one-third of a mile) long and placed to protect soils or crops from wind damage.

For more information about the shelterbelt program, contact Casement at (403)422-1789, the PFRA Shelterbelt Centre in Indian Head at (306)965-2284 or your local PFRA office.

Contact: Brendan Casement *John Sharp*
(403)422-1789 *(306)695-2284*

Shelterbelt orders open July 1

Alberta farmers can start ordering trees and shrubs for planned shelterbelts on July 1.

"While application opening date is later, the same advice applies--order early to avoid disappointment," advises Brendan Casement, Alberta Agriculture shelterbelt specialist.

"Seedlings are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. People who order early are almost certain to get what they want," he adds.

The Crop Diversification Center, North – the former Alberta Agriculture Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton – will begin accepting applications on July 1. Applications close on March 1, 1996.

Application forms are available from all Alberta Agriculture district offices, municipal agricultural fieldmen and local Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) offices.

"Currently, it appears that all plants listed on the application forms are available, but this may change as the season progresses and the staff view the contracts," he notes.

Over 20 varieties are available. All plants come in bundles of 10 to simplify ordering.

Contact: Brendan Casement
(403)422-1789

Environment focus of Ag Institute '96

Lakeland College is already gearing up for a focus on environmental issues during the 1996 Summer Agricultural Education Institute.

"The annual institute provides teachers with an opportunity to experience the agricultural industry hands-on, develop practical curriculum and earn credit for a fourth-year university level course," says Betty Gabert, Alberta agricultural awareness specialist and one of the institute's founders.

"None of the last five institutes would have been possible without tremendous and continuing support from the institute's partners and sponsors," she adds. The first institute was held in Lethbridge in 1990.

Partners are UFA, the University of Lethbridge, the hosting agricultural colleges and the Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) program. A number of commodity groups and agribusinesses also support the institute, as do local organizations and farm family hosts.

"UFA has just committed to another two years of funding through the '97 institute," she notes. UFA provides full scholarships for the teacher participants. "Over eight years, this is a more than $100,000 investment in agricultural awareness and education."

Cont'd on page 5

The 1996 institute at Lakeland College in Vermilion runs July 21 through 28.

"We're sure to have another completely booked institute, just as we have for '95," says Gabert. The 1995 institute in Lethbridge is July 16 through 23. For the first time, out-of-province teachers will attend. Biotechnology is the featured topic.

For more information about the Summer Agricultural Education Institute, contact Gabert in Edmonton at (403)427-2171.

Contact: *Betty Gabert*
(403)427-2171

Grazing reserve pilot project in the Peace

A two-year grazing management pilot project with the Whitemud Grazing Association will give livestock producers the opportunity to manage their own livestock.

Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister, announced the project. The Whitemud Provincial Grazing Reserve is located northwest of Peace River

Under normal operating conditions, the management of livestock operations on provincial grazing reserves is carried out by Alberta Agriculture public lands branch employees. With the grazing management agreement, the association determines the level of supervision required for the livestock operation.

The agreement is strictly a management agreement and doesn't transfer an interest in the land to the association. Alberta Agriculture will continue to allocate allotments and provide approvals for other resource uses. These other uses include recreational activities such as hunting, snowmobiling and cross country skiing, as well as industrial activities such as sand and gravel operations, logging, and petroleum and natural gas exploration and development

Alberta Agriculture will ensure the existing tame pastures retain their productivity by reseeding these pastures when required. The provincial department will replace the fences and corrals once these assets are no longer useable, as well as complete major repairs to buildings and water sources. The association will pay for these maintenance projects, and is responsible to complete and pay for the normal maintenance requirements of the reserve assets. Such maintenance activities include repairing fences and replacing broken planks on the corrals

As a condition of the agreement, the association will allow appropriate access to other users who wish to enter the public lands contained within the grazing reserve

"Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development appreciates the opportunity to work closely with the Whitemud Grazing Association on this pilot project," notes Paszkowski.

Contact: *Dwight Dibben/Brian Hlus*
Executive assistants to the minister
(403)427-2137
Gerry Graw, Head, Public lands branch
(403)835-2291
Wayne Arthur, Manager Regional Grazing Reserve
(403)624-6109

Agri-News briefs

Oilseed market fundamentals weak

Large global oilseed supplies may be a bigger factor in the market than poor weather in the mid-west U.S. and seeding delays in Western Canada says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "South America is completing a record soybean harvest and palm oil production is on a seasonal rise. At the same time, the absence of China in the market leaves a big hole in demand," says Al Dooley of the market analysis and statistics branch. Buying interest in both canola and flax is poor he adds. Dooley estimates the 1995 Canadian canola crop at slightly below seven million tonnes. For more information, contact Dooley in Edmonton at (403)427-5387. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Unseasonal business in the pulse market

Buyers caught short by last year's small global pulse crop will continue to come to Western Canada says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "The unseasonal business should help support prices and provide short-term delivery pricing opportunities uncharacteristic for this time of year," says Matthew Machielse of the market analysis and statistics branch. The bulk of market opportunities will be in higher grade products since limited supplies are available. "Lower grades will likely come under increasing pressure as producers force sales to beat freight rate increases. So

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either beat the rush or plan on holding into the new crop year," he says. For more information, contact Machielse in Edmonton at (403)427-5387. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Calgary weekend for ag fair winners

Being a high-point winner for your division at the annual *Agricultural Ambassador Fair* earns you more than a first prize cheque. The three divisional winners also receive a family weekend in Calgary courtesy of Alberta Pool. Two of the three 1995 fair high-point winners recently did just that. Connie Kohout of Crossfield and Kendra Pederson of Tilley, along with their families started the weekend at a banquet. They received plaques for their accomplishments. Pat Johnson, division one winner Josh Waldner's teacher, accepted his plaque and later presented it to him in front of his classmates as Lane's Lake Colony School near Castor. Johnson wasn't the only teacher present. Kohout's mother Patty, her home school teacher, and Pederson's principal Jim Beardsley also attended. Along with the Kohout and Pederson families, they toured the Pool's Grain Academy at the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Grounds and Heritage Park. The fifth annual *Agricultural Ambassador Fair* in Stettler inspired the participation of more than 5,000 students from across the province. The 1996 fair will also be held in Stettler. For more information about the high-point winners' trip, contact Ruth Hunter in Calgary at (403)290-4788. For more information about Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC), the *Agricultural Ambassador Fair* and the Agricultural Ambassador program, call Betty Gabert or Cindy Dixon in Edmonton at (403)427-2171. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Rural Prairies Tomorrow conference July 4-6

The future of prairie business, how it will look and how people can play a successful role is the agenda for a Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) and Farm Credit Corporation (FCC) conference July 4 through 6. The *Rural Prairie Tomorrow--Moving the Agriculture Industry into the 21st Century* conference will be held at the Ramada Hotel in Regina, Saskatchewan. Federal agriculture minister Ralph Goodale is expected to open the conference. Session topics include moving into diversification; mobilizing capital, physical and human resources; environmental sustainability and wealth generation; health of our soils; rural partnerships in action; and, a keynote address by Harry Hill, director general of the PFRA for the last 18 years. Registration is $190. For more information, contact PJ*POLAMC Communications in Regina at (306)757-5520 or fax (306)569-2451.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

June 19, 1995

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It's video preview week at district offices

Twenty Alberta Agriculture videos are free-for-view at your local district office starting today (June 19).

"Free video preview week is June 19 through 23 featuring 20 of the department's newest videos," says Ken Blackley, multi-media branch information officer.

During the week, clients can watch any one of the 20 new videos in-house at absolutely no cost. Also at no charge, is the library clips tape with scenes from over 50 productions. As well, all other titles will be available for in-house viewing at $1 per video. Each district office has over 100 different titles.

Among the new productions are several series. The diagnosing canola problems series features *Outstanding in your Field: Diagnosing Crop Problems* and *Diagnosing Canola Problems*. There are southern and northern versions of *Managing our Rangelands*. A three-part series about water wells that last covers *Planning and Construction*, *Managing and Maintaining* and *Shock Chlorination*. The two-part *The World Trading Game* looks at why we trade and the specifics of GATT and NAFTA. There's also a three-part farming is about people series dealing with the human aspects of farm management.

Among the single title releases are: *Iron Beasts: A Guide to Tractor Maintenance*; *Grass Seed: A New Irrigated Crop*; *The Business of Agriculture*; *Producing a Cattle Show*; *Crossing Over to Direct Seeding*; *Stop Blackleg*; *A Winning Export Hay Formula*; and, *The Rainbow Cafe*.

"After you see our wide range of programs, you'll likely want to purchase an annual Alberta Agriculture video membership. With it, you can borrow not just the tapes from your local office, but also from our catalogue of over 700 titles at the central multi-media library in Edmonton," says Blackley. Annual memberships are $12 for individuals or $25 for organizations.

Contact: *Ken Blackley*
(403) 427-2127

Barons wrap-up to Direct Seeding Days

The latest innovations in direct seeding, fertility and straw\chaff management are featured June 27 in Barons at southern Alberta's *Direct Seeding Day*.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Fifteen different planters direct seeded canola and wheat earlier this spring. On June 27, they'll be back to perform beside the already seeded areas. "This side-by-side comparison is a great way to evaluate performance of the different seeders," says Rob Dunn, Alberta Agriculture southern region conservation co-ordinator.

The Barons field day will be held just west of Barons on Highway 23. The entry fee is only $2 per vehicle and buses are free.

"This is the final in a series of three *Direct Seeding Days* across the province," he notes.

Besides the demonstration of seeding equipment, the Barons field day includes an opportunity to look at research trials and demonstrations of combine straw and chaff spreading equipment.

Research trials include a comparison of different ground opener designs to double-shoot anhydrous ammonia and urea fertilizer when seeding, safe rates of seed-placed urea and ammonium nitrate with different seed spread patterns and direct seeded special crops.

"Because effective residue management is an important first step towards a successful direct seeding system, the straw and chaff spreading equipment are a natural for the direct seeding field day," says Dunn.

As well, there will be a number of displays and concessions at the site.

The field day is organized by Alberta Agriculture and the County of Lethbridge.

Major sponsors include the Alberta Reduced Tillage Initiative (ARTI) and the Canada-Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (CAESA). Several local businesses, community groups, agricultural service boards and Conservation 2000 clubs have also contributed.

For more information about the Barons direct seeding field day, contact Rob Wauters in Lethbridge at (403) 381-5119.

Contact: Rob Dunn *Rob Wauters*
(403) 381-5119 *(403) 381-5119*

Changes to Summer Farm Employment Program orientation locations

Locations for some of the Summer Farm Employment Program (SFEP) orientation seminars have changed says the program's co-ordinator.

"All the dates are the same during the first two weeks of July, only some locations have changed from the original announcement," says Christine Paproski. [See attached list for all 19 locations and dates.]

The orientation seminar is offered for both summer farm employees and employers, and covers farm safety and effective communication on the farm. The afternoon seminars begin at 12:30 p.m. and end at approximately 4:00 p.m. All employers and employees who have been accepted into the program will be notified by mail about the seminar they should attend.

For more information, please contact Christine Paproski, program co-ordinator, at 422-5672.

Orientation seminars schedule (change is in bold):

Peace River	**Provincial Building**, July 4
Grande Prairie	Grande Prairie Regional College, July 5
Barrhead	**Barrhead Arena**, July 7
Athabasca	**Provincial Building**, July 10
St. Paul	St. Paul Regional High School, July 11
Wainwright	Wainwright Comuniplex, July 12
Wetaskiwin	Wetaskiwin Training Centre, July 13
Drayton Valley	**Provincial Building**, July 14
High River	Highwood Memorial Centre, July 4
Lethbridge	Lethbridge Research Centre, July 5
Medicine Hat	Provincial Building, July 6
Brooks	Medicine Hat College (Brooks) Campus, July 7
Strathmore	Wheatland County Inn, July 10
Hanna	**Provincial Building**, July 11
Olds	**Legion Hall**, July 12
Stettler	Stettler Elementary School, July 13
Rocky Mt. House	New Provincial Building, July 14
Edmonton	J. G. O'Donoghue Building, July 17
Edmonton	J. G. O'Donoghue Building, July 18

Contact: Christine Paproski
(403) 422-5672

Poinsettia growing workshops in July

The Christmas poinsettia season may be half a year away, but commercial poinsettia growers have an opportunity to learn more about growing the traditional flower at a day-long workshop in July.

Alberta Agriculture and the Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association are offering two workshops. The first is July 12 at the Brooks campus of Medicine Hat College. The second is a week later, July 19, at the Crops Diversification Centre, North—formerly the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre—in Edmonton.

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"All aspects of commercial poinsettia growing will be covered at the workshops," says Mohyuddin Mirza of Alberta Agriculture's horticulture unit.

Alberta's commercial poinsettia industry is part of a growing horticultural sector. Greenhouse poinsettia sales generate about $217,000 per acre.

"Space is limited and pre-registration is required," he adds. To pre-register, contact Mirza in Edmonton at (403)422-1789 or Jim Calpas, at the Crops Diversification Centre, South in Brooks at (403)362-3391. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Workshop registration is $32.10. Cheques can be made payable to the Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association. The workshops start at 9:30 a.m. and run through to 4:30 p.m.

Contact:	*Dr. Mohyuddin Mirza* *(403) 422-1789*	*Jim Calpas* *(403) 362-3391*

Prairie flowers will bloom in Edmonton

Transplanting bedding plants isn't an unusual activity in Alberta. However, transplanting native plants grown as bedding plants is.

Recently 25 grade eight students from Vernon Barford Junior High School in Edmonton did just that in their pilot project *Prairie Space* as part of an *Environment Week* celebration. They planted containers of pussytoes, golden rod, smooth aster, gaillardia, blazing star and three-flowers avens in a prairie space they seeded last fall.

Grasses from the fall 1994 and spring 1995 plantings are up and growing on the plot near Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's headquarters building in south Edmonton, the J.G. O'Donoghue Building at 7000-113 Street.

"Some of the native plants, especially wild flowers, are more difficult to grow from seed, so we're transplanting the container plants started by one of the project sponsors Enviroscapes, a Lethbridge company specializing in native seeds," explains Heather Gerling, project co-ordinator and an Alberta Agriculture reclamation specialist.

The *Environment Week* timing is deliberate she adds. The *Prairie Spaces* pilot project is designed as a way to restore native prairie areas, or foster the science and art of restoring prairie. Another project aspect is encouraging conservation and responsible use of remaining native prairie. Most of that native prairie is found on public lands.

"*Prairie Spaces* is more than planting a plot and watching it grow. Students are studying fescue prairie and also have an opportunity for hands-on stewardship," says Gerling.

Along the way, students have studied indirect and direct benefits to preserving prairie spaces. Direct economic benefits from native plants and animals include foods, medicines, and building and industrial products. Domestic livestock and crops are borrowed from nature's genetic library. Native grasslands also are important to soil fertility, nutrient cycling and climate influences. There's also the aesthetic value of a diverse native prairie and its contribution to quality of life.

"We don't know which of these species might be important in the future," she adds. "So with a majority of these native areas gone, there is a growing need to learn the science and art of restoring prairie. Already interest in using native species in reclamation and landscaping is growing."

The *Prairie Spaces* pilot project's goal is a provincial school program. Classroom material will likely be developed during the winter of 1995. Gerling says she hopes schools and other groups will be able to start their own prairie space by 1996.

Project sponsors include Renaissance Energy, Pinnacle Resources, Enviroscapes, Eagle Lake Nurseries and Alberta Agriculture's public lands branch.

Contact:	*Heather Gerling* *(403) 427-3932*

North and south different stories in May

May's weather had a definite north-south split in 1995 says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

"May was wet in the south and dry in the north," says Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch.

"However, when you average the province, Alberta's total precipitation and average temperature in May were near normal. That shows how deceptive an average can be," he adds.

The province's climate stations averaged 48.5 mm of precipitation, 0.5 mm above the 1961 to 1990 average. The average monthly temperature for May was 10.2 degrees, slightly below the long-term average of 10.3°C. These averages are based on data recorded at 59 Environment Canada climate stations across the province.

Most of southern Alberta received above normal precipitation while the rest of Alberta received below normal precipitation. The southern region reported between 30 and 250 mm, about 30 per cent to 310 per cent of normal. "This above normal May precipitation combined with early June rains contributed to flooding in parts of southern Alberta," he notes. For example, Cardston got the most precipitation during May, 233.3 mm, about 310 per cent of its long-term average. High River got 149.1 mm of precipitation, about 248 per cent of it's normal.

Cont'd on page 4

Central regions reported between 15 and 50 mm of precipitation, varying from 20 per cent of normal to near normal. The Peace region reported between one and 35 mm.

"Temperatures also varied around the province," he says. "Of particular interest to farmers and the agriculture industry are the heat unit statistics." The concept of growing degree days, also called heat units, relates temperature to crop growth.

"There was also a real contrast between south and north in heat units," he adds.

Southern, central and northeastern regions reported heat units about a full week behind last year, one to three days behind normal. The northwestern region reported heat units three days ahead of last year and about the same as the long-term norm. The Peace region reported two days ahead of last year and eight days ahead of normal."

The Crowsnest Pass reported 6.9°C the coldest monthly average, only one degree below normal. Bow Island reported 12.5°C, only 0.1 degree above normal which was the warmest monthly average temperature.

For more information, contact Dzikowski in Edmonton at (403) 422-4385. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Peter Dzikowski
(403) 422-4385

New programs assist food and beverage exporters

Food Beverage Canada (FBC) has two new programs to help strengthen and increase its members' share of global food and beverage markets.

"FBC realizes excellent packaging and labelling that creates consumer interest in foreign countries is a key to success," says Arnold de Leeuw, trade vice-president for the Alberta Food Processors Association (AFPA). "The two programs will assist food companies with both," he adds.

The Export Packaging and Enhancement Program is designed to improve the quality and appearance of export labels and packages. The program covers costs of services such as artwork, photography and translations for ethnic markets. So are introductory promotional materials such as brochures and coupons.

Access to distant markets is also dependent on meeting the regulatory requirements of the target market. Those requirements vary, depending on the product and the country. The Export Regulatory Access Program is designed to assist member companies in getting the necessary regulatory approval.

"This can include food analysis, nutritional labelling and preparing necessary documents," notes de Leeuw.

The programs are cost-shared between the applicant and FBC. The funding maximum is 50 per cent of the project and $100,000 in one year. To be eligible an Alberta manufacturer of food and beverages must be a full AFPA member.

Paul Murphy, President of FBC, recently explained the programs to 50 food processors and industry representatives at an *Export Packaging Seminar* sponsored by AFPA.

For more information on the programs, contact de Leeuw in Edmonton at (403)444-2272.

Contact: Arnold de Leeuw
(403) 444-2272

Agri-News briefs

Breton Plots Field Day June 30

The 65th annual *Breton Plots Field Day* will be June 30 at the University of Alberta research plots near Breton about 110 km southwest of Edmonton. The morning program features environmental lessons from Breton Plots including Carbon sequestration (increasing organic matter in soil) and nitrogen losses using different cropping systems. A tour of the experimental plots is the afternoon activity. The program goes rain or shine. Research work at the plots was started in 1929 and some plots have been in operation since 1930. Originally the plots were intended to find a system of farming Gray Luvisolic soils. Now, the plots provide invaluable information about long-term effects different management practices have on soils. For more information, contact Jim Robertson at (403)492-6466 or César Izzaurralde at (403) 492-5104 at the University of Alberta's renewable resources department.

CAMA annual meeting June 28

The Alberta chapter of the Canadian Agri-Marketing Association (CAMA) is holding its annual meeting June 28 in Calgary. The meeting at the Delta Bow Valley Inn includes association business, a review of past activities, reports and

Cont'd on page 5

electing new officers. A special presentation about reclaiming Mt. St. Helen's is also part of the program. The meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. The cost is $15 for members with reservations and $20 for non-members and members without reservations. For reservations, call the CAMA office in Calgary at (403) 541-0911 or fax (403) 541-0915.

Partnerships raises dollars for Canadian 4-H Foundation

The Canadian 4-H Foundation had $5,000 added to its coffers through a unique fundraising project between the foundation, Unifeed and the Western Stock Growers' Association (WSGA). The WSGA donated a steer, feed was donated by the Unifeed Division of United Grain Growers and the calf was sold during the annual *4-H on Parade* show and sale in Calgary. The calf was purchased by Sherritt Fertilizers for $5,000. The WSGA participated in the project as part of its centennial celebrations. The foundation is celebrating its silver anniversary. For more information, contact Rhonda Clark, WSGA centennial co-ordinator, at (403) 250-9121 or Ted Youck, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics and 4-H branch, at (403) 422-4444.

Call for grazing/pasture technology papers

The call is out for volunteer papers and presentations at the *Total Ranch Management in the Northern Great Plains* conference. The conference will be held in Swift Current November 2 and 3 and will bring together ranchers, farmers, specialists and researchers to examine total ranch management. Individuals interested in presenting a paper at the conference are invited to submit titles, authors and a 200 to 300 word abstract. Abstracts must be received by July 24, 1995. Poster papers are also welcome. Arrangements can be made for exhibits and computer demonstration stations. Submit abstracts to Zoheir Abouguendia, grazing and pasture technology program at 1-1081 Central Avenue N, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, S9H 4Z1. For more information, call him at (306) 778-8294.

Hort Week at Olds College July 16-21

The annual *Horticultural Week* at Olds College runs July 16 through 21. Horticultural courses include landscape and garden, schools for horticultural judges, special interest horticulture such as composting and water gardens, commercial horticulture, arts and crafts, special events and funshops for kids. There's also a commercial floral design school and leisure flower arranging. Registration discounts are available before June 30. For more information, contact Olds College Educational Development Centre at (403) 556-4684.

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AGRI-NEWS

June 26, 1995

CANADIANA
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Plant exchange program for purple loosestrife control

A number of Alberta greenhouses and nurseries are helping homeowners and the environment through a plant exchange.

Homeowners who have lythrum, a garden variety of the noxious weed purple loosestrife, can exchange that plant for a new, safer perennial at participating greenhouses and nurseries. [See separate story about purple loosestrife.]

"Purple loosestrife can cross pollinate with the lythrum cultivars. These supposedly sterile garden varieties can produce viable seed and contribute to the spread of loosestrife," explains Alberta Agriculture's Shaffeek Ali, chair of the provincial purple loosestrife action committee.

Based on a Manitoba program, this year is the second time the incentive of a free new plant has been offered to Albertans. In 1994 two Edmonton area greenhouses – Hole's Greenhouses and Gardens in St. Albert and Virginia Park Greenhouses in south Edmonton – participated in the program.

Two more Edmonton area greenhouses are involved this year. They are Lacombe Gardens in north Edmonton and Salisbury Greenhouses and Landscaping in Sherwood Park. As well, Cameron and Weir Greenhouses and Garden Centre of Slyvan Lake and Red Deer are participating in the program.

The Bow Valley Vegetation Management Task Force organized its own exchange program this year. Six greenhouses in the greater Calgary area offer the free exchange until June 30. They are Eagle Lake Nurseries of Strathmore, Greenview Nurseries, Sunny Side Greenhouses, the two Calgary locations of Golden Acre Garden Sentres and Sun Tropicals Greenhouses of Balzac. For more information, contact Edie Stelkovics in Calgary at (403)221-8367 or toll-free at 1-800-494-8360.

Ali reminds homeowners they must remove all of the plant including the lythrum roots. Dispose by burning, or seal in a plastic bag and take to a landfill. Don't compost, as the lythrum can regenerate from cut shoots and roots.

Contact: Shaffeek Ali
(403)427-7098

Purple loosestrife is a noxious threat

Albertans should continue to be on the lookout for the so-called beautiful killer, purple loosestrife, says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

Designated a noxious weed in 1992, purple loosestrife is an aggressive plant that invades wetlands, chokes out native vegetation and reduces available food and shelter for wildlife. This perennial weed can produce 2.5 million seeds per year. Those seeds are easily spread through streams, rivers and lakes. Highly competitive with other plants, the loosestrife seeds germinate quickly once they touch the ground.

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Purple loosestrife is a noxious threat

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Resource management planning given thumbs up

Resource planning unites conservation, production and economics

4-H represented at youth leadership seminar

Briefs

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

"These characteristics of being prolific and aggressive are what makes it deadly. It's also difficult to control because there aren't any registered chemicals for aquatic areas," says Shaffeek Ali, chair of the provincial purple loosestrife action committee.

Purple loosestrife is easily recognized by its long, bright pink/purple flowers. Each flower has five to six petals growing on vertical spikes. It blooms from mid-July through September. It's also a tall plant growing to heights of between one and three metres. Its leaves are tongue shaped with smooth edges and attach directly to a four-sided stem.

The weed isn't native to North America. It was introduced from Europe in the 1880s. The first Alberta infestation was reported in Medicine Hat in 1990. By 1994 a total of 65 infestation sites had been identified.

"The loosestrife is similar to ornamental lythrum and the two are often confused for each other," notes Ali. "Gardens with lythrum pose a threat because the lythrum can cross with purple loosestrife and produce viable seeds. Gardeners are encouraged not to grow the plant and remove it from their gardens."

Alberta's nursery trade voluntarily stopped selling lythrum. Some nurseries are also involved in an exchange program. [See separate story.]

For more information or to report a purple loosestrife infestation, contact your municipal weed inspector.

Contact: Shaffeek Ali
(403)427-7098

Bow River Project concentrates on invasive weeds

Taking inventory of purple loosestrife and scentless chamomile in riparian areas along the Bow River from Canmore to the Bassano Dam is a first step in the *Bow River Project*.

The project was designed to enhance protection and conservation of riparian habitats in the Bow River sub-basin says project leader Edie Stelkovics. Project goals include controlling non-native weeds that invade riparian areas – such as purple loosestrife – and to promote improved land-use management practices in riparian areas.

The first phase of the project includes the loosestrife and chamomile inventories. "Although the project covers several weeds, these two appear to be the largest threat," says Stelkovics. Other invasive weeds will also be identified and inventoried.

In 1994 purple loosestrife was documented at 26 sites along the Bow River sub-basin. Although 1995 inventories have just begun, an additional site has already been found. Most infestations are in backwaters and slower moving waters. On the other hand, scentless chamomile will establish itself almost anywhere. However, it's generally found along the shorelines of fast moving waters.

The project's initial phase has four other components. They include: control and prevention efforts east of Calgary on the Bow River to the Carseland Weir; riparian management workshops addressing land management near water courses, water quality and quantity; a purple loosestrife plant exchange program [see separate article]; and, expanding existing and developing new partnerships for awareness and control.

"The project already involves a wide variety of stakeholders," she notes. This includes three provincial government departments – agriculture, environment and justice; the Siksika First Nation; seven municipalities; 11 conservation organizations and funding programs such as Trout Unlimited Canada and the Canada-Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (CAESA); three irrigation districts; three provincial parks; and, a number of corporate sponsors.

Stelkovics describes the project as unique. "It provides an opportunity for a wide variety of stakeholders to work together on common problems and helps to strengthen their common interests. It's also a very proactive program because it focuses on education and increased community awareness," she says.

"If the *Bow River Project* is successful, it may be expanded to other parts of the South Saskatchewan basic and beyond," she adds.

For more information about the *Bow River Project*, contact Stelkovics at Trout Unlimited Canada in Calgary at (403)221-8367 or toll-free outside the Calgary area at 1-800-494-8360.

Contact: Edie Stelkovics
(403)221-8367

Flood relief for southern Alberta producers

The 1995 Southern Alberta Disaster Recovery Program will help southern Alberta farmers who experienced uninsured agricultural losses from recent floods.

"Mother Nature has a habit of reminding us from time-to-time how powerfully she can affect our lives and livelihoods," said Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's minister, as he announced details of the disaster recovery program's agriculture component.

Eligible farms could receive maximum payments of $100,000 from the program. The agriculture component will be administered by Paszkowski's department.

"In situations like this, it is necessary for government to offer some basic assistance. Disaster recovery programs act as

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effective safety nets by providing some financial help," adds Paszkowski. "However, they are not traditional insurance programs, nor are they intended to compensate for loss on insurable items."

In some areas, producers may have been affected by flooding or excessive rainfall, or both. The disaster recovery program only covers overland flooding. However, the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) offers programs that may pick up where the disaster recovery program leaves off.

AFSC policy holders with all risk crop insurance who are unable to seed or who need to reseed because of excessive moisture, can contact AFSC's insurance division. If a farm's viability has been seriously threatened by severe losses from flooding or excessive rainfall, producers can contact an AFSC loans officer to discuss possible lending assistance from AFSC's Disaster Assistance Program.

Contact: Grant Clarke
(403)422-0015/1-800-232-9479
Bob Splane, AFSC
(403)679-1302
Dwight Dibben/Brian Hlus
(403)427-2137
Ken Moholitny
(403)422-9167

Resource management planning given thumbs up

Over the winter, farmers across the province had the opportunity to learn more about a key part of successful long-term farm management – resource planning.

Resource planning is a way to integrate conservation, production and economics. In particular, resource planning focuses on land, an often overlooked component in farm management.

"Four separate initiatives over the winter season introduced farmers to the concepts and tools of planning how to manage their land resource," says Tom Goddard, Alberta Agriculture soil conservation specialist.

"It's really rewarding to see farm organizations, agri-business, consultants and Alberta Agriculture staff working together on resource planning," he adds describing those initiatives.

In southern Alberta, resource management has been an integral part of *Gear Up Advantage* level three courses for the last two years. Jack Payne, Alberta Agriculture crop specialist in Taber, developed and now delivers the resource planning portion of *Gear Up Advantage*.

"This year's participants ranked resource management as the most valuable part of the third year curriculum," notes Goddard. That curriculum included risk analysis, profit planning, estate planning, risk and decision making, and enterprise selection and farm size. Their resource management training included an air photo and mapping exercise.

Two-day resource management planning workshops in the four other regions also drew more participants than expected. "Participants from nearly 60 farms said they'd make some changes as a result of the workshop such as seeding salt tolerant grasses in saline areas, varying fertilizer rates and soil testing more regularly and differently," notes Goddard.

The conservation and development branch also funded two test workshops about a specific resource management tool – precision farming. The *Preparation for Precision Farming* workshops were co-sponsored by two fertilizer dealers and were held in Vermilion and Taber.

"These two workshops were an introduction to site specific management and precision farming technology, emphasized the implications for their operation and also provided a vision to their future management needs," he says.

Contract Pedology Services of Lethbridge was hired to produce and present the workshops. Goddard and other Alberta Agriculture staff were among workshop presenters. In Vermilion, Goddard covered the basic concepts of land resource management planning, the theory and use of aerial photography, farming by soil type and precision farming technology by satellite and computer.

"Participants in both locations rated the land resource planning information as the most important and valuable," he says. "The farmers really keyed on soil sampling techniques, more intensive soil sampling to isolate problem spots and managing fields in smaller units.

"I think the message was well received and wanted. I was really struck by what one participant said, that the course was an eye-opener and he was going home with a whole new perspective to the economics of farming."

Earthkeeping, along with funding assistance from the Canada-Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (CAESA) and Ducks Unlimited, offered three resource planning workshops. Their focus was on intensive pasture management, manure application and wildlife habitat.

For more information about resource management planning, contact Goddard in Edmonton at (403)422-6530.

Contact: Tom Goddard
(403)422-6530
Ron McNeil
(403)320-5099
Jack Payne
(403)223-7907

Resource planning unites conservation, production and economics

More and more Alberta farmers are learning about how to best manage their physical resources of land and water through resource management planning courses.

Tom Goddard, Alberta Agriculture soil conservation specialist, explains resource planning gives farmers a big picture look at their whole farming operation by combining conservation, production and economics.

"There are three main elements you have to manage – land, labor and capital. Part of that management is knowing your physical limitations and capabilities. Sometimes land is forgotten when people talk about farm management, that's where resource management planning comes in.

"Resource planning looks at how to best manage land and water for the long-term sustainability and viability of the farm. Its another management tool that needs consideration when farm managers look at their farm in detail," he adds.

Resource planning requires integrating knowledge and technology from a number of speciality areas. This includes soil testing, using aerial photography, physical record keeping and product analysis.

Over the past winter, 32 days of resource management planning courses were offered through four different programs. The courses were produced and presented by consultants and Alberta Agriculture staff, and were sponsored by both federal and provincial governments, non-government organizations, producer associations and agri-industry.

"Farmers who took the courses told us they were interested, learned from their initial connection and want to know more," says Goddard. "Some said they didn't know the information was accessible, many planned to use some of the skills and technology right away, and others say they'll need more training and updating in future years."

Contact: Tom Goddard
(403)422-6530

4-H representatives at youth leadership seminar

Three Alberta 4-H delegates will join representatives from a number of youth organizations at a two-part leadership seminar beginning on July 2.

Jody Elliott of Sangudo, Linda Kwirant of Wildwood and Wade Meunier of Barrhead earned the right to attend this seminar at the annual 4-H *Provincial Selections Program*. Trip awards are based on 4-H and community involvement plus interpersonal skills.

The *Youth Leadership Seminar* is hosted by Alberta Recreation and Parks at the Blue Lake Adventure Lodge in Hinton. Part one runs July 2 through 7, with part two in the fall, from October 12 through 15.

"The seminar's aim is improving participants' group planning, communication skills and personal skills to help them enhance their leadership skills," says Marguerite Stark, Alberta Agriculture provincial 4-H programs specialist.

Besides presentations, delegates participate in initiative tasks as well as a wide variety of recreational activities including rock climbing, orienteering, navigating, canoeing and kayaking.

Contact: Marguerite Stark (403)948-8510
Jody Elliott (403)785-2690
Linda Kwirant (403)325-2147
Wade Meunier (403)674-5522

Agri-News briefs

Farmers encouraged to return clean containers

Return clean containers is the theme of the annual Pesticide Container Management Program. The program provides proper disposal alternatives for empty, clean pesticide containers. Farmers are encouraged to triple or pressure rinse pesticide containers. Clean containers make recycling more efficient. Program costs are reduced by eliminating the need to wash containers before recycling and dispose of residues. The program is voluntary. Farmers can take their clean pesticide containers to 98 collection sites. In 1994, over 780,000, or 75 per cent of, pesticide containers in Alberta were returned. Check with your local municipality for the approved disposal site. The program is funded by the Crop Protection Institute and in Alberta is managed by the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation in co-operation with Alberta Environmental Protection. For more information, contact Tom Thackeray with Action on Waste in Edmonton at (403)422-3465 or Wendy Rose of the Crop Protection Institute in Toronto at (416)622-9771.

Alberta fair list available

The annual listing of Alberta exhibitions, fairs and agricultural societies is now available. The booklet provides two lists – a calendar of activities and a listing by community with theme and contact person. The list is compiled from submissions by agricultural societies. To order your copy, write the Alberta Agriculture publications office at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, and ask for Agdex number 007 *Alberta Exhibitions, Fairs and Agricultural Societies, 1995*.

Poultry welfare symposium August 12-13

A two-day poultry welfare symposium is planned for August 12 and 13 at the University of Alberta. The symposium is just before the annual Poultry Science Association meetings. The symposium is organized by Ian Duncan of the University of Guelph and Joy Mench from the University of Maryland. Poultry welfare issues will be explored and current research reviewed. For more information, contact the Alberta Egg Board Producers office in Calgary at (403)250-1197 or Duncan in Guelph at (519)824-4120, ext. 3652.

Olds Forage Centre destroyed by fire

A fire at the Olds Forage Centre (Transfeeder Incorporated) won't interrupt client service. "We've diverted all the orders for compressed hay that were to be filled here directly to our Cremona Plant," says Barry Schmitt, acting manager of the Alberta Timothy Company. The centre, including its equipment and about 100,000 bales of hay, were destroyed in a fire on June 16. The centre was located on Olds College's demonstration farm. In the early 1980s, the company and Olds College entered a joint agreement. The centre employed about 40 full and part-time workers and provided local hay producers with the technology to double compress forage destined for Far East markets. As a research, development and production facility, the centre offered students an opportunity to learn about the practices of an internationally-successful company. For more information, about the centre, contact Schmitt at (403)337-2936 or the Bob Bigsby, Olds College president, at (403)556-8300.

National pesticide application technology conference

A national conference about pesticide application technology will be held at the University of Guelph August 10 and 11. The conference will interest anyone involved with the application, recommendation or evaluation of pesticides. Leading experts will discuss the role and direction of pesticide application technology. Specific sessions will focus on spray drift, pesticide deposition, deposition evaluation, electrostatics, air-assist and other new technologies. There's also an associated trade show. The keynote speaker is Frank Hall, head of the Laboratory for Pest Control Application Technology (LPCAT) at Ohio State University. Pre-registration with payment before July 31 is $125, or $160 after this date. For more information, contact Ridgetown College at (519) 674-1588.

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AGRI-NEWS

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Food safety line new consumer service

A new consumer service will provide Albertans with a direct line to food safety information.

The *Food Safety Info Line* will be open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. through 6 p.m. In the Calgary area, call 287-0098. Consumers in the rest of the province can call the line toll-free at 1-800-892-8333.

Questions will be answered by Debbie Brekke, a professional home economist with 16 years experience in food, nutrition and food safety.

"The *Food Safety Info Line* is designed to answer questions and concerns about our food supply from the farm to the table including agricultural production practices, regulatory controls, food production and processing, residues in food, packaging, labelling and shelf life, as well as questions related to consumer food handling and storage," says Brekke.

The information line is an Alberta Home Economics Association project in co-operation with Alberta Agriculture. [See separate story.]

"We are launching this service to satisfy two needs: to research the food safety issues of concern to Albertans and to provide all Albertans with direct access to accurate and reliable food safety information," says Faye Forbes Anderson, president of the Alberta Home Economics Association.

"Albertans have long recognized the expertise of professional home economists in foods and nutrition, especially in the area of food safety," she adds. "As credible sources of food safety information, members who specialize in this area can respond to consumers' concerns about the use of the abundant food-resources available for Albertans."

Brekke initially expects to receive a lot of calls about food handling during the barbecuing and camping season. "Many cases of food-borne illness are caused by mishandling of food by consumers," she says. [See stories about food handling.]

Contact: *Debbie Brekke* *Suzanne Tenold*
(403)287-0098 *(403)948-8504*

Safety line a service to consumers and industry

Health professionals recognize that serious health concerns may arise when adults with very little information about food safety are responsible for food preparation.

"That's one of the reasons for the new *Food Safety Info Line*," says Suzanne Tenold, Alberta Agriculture foods and nutrition specialist. The provincial department is co-operating in the project with the Alberta Home Economics Association.

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Alberta
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Tenold notes food safety and food handling instruction isn't as common in schools as it was many years ago. Home economics is usually an option and microbiology isn't widely available. As well, many home economists are asked for information about proper food handling, especially when food safety concerns surface.

"New directions in business planning by both government and industry gave the Alberta Home Economics Association an opportunity to continue providing important food safety information to Albertans.

"This project will also recognize and profile regulatory agencies with a food safety mandate – often unknown to the general public," she adds. "It will demonstrate the mutual concern shared by many government departments for the health and well-being of Albertans and confirm the high quality assurance standards that are in place to ensure a safe food supply."

Alberta Agriculture has reviewed Albertan's food safety needs. "The department sees food safety resources as an important support for the provincial agri-food industry – to make people aware about the safety standards they use," says Tenold.

The *Food Safety Info Line* will be open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. through 6 p.m. In the Calgary area, call 287-0098. Consumers in the rest of the province can call the line toll-free at 1-800-892-8333.

Contact: *Suzanne Tenold*
(403)948-8504

Beware the undercooked hamburger

While we aren't immune to "hamburger disease" any time of the year, the barbeque season is a particular time when people should take care says an Alberta Agriculture foods and nutrition specialist.

"A safe hamburger shouldn't have even a touch of pink. The centre of a hamburger patty should be brown and juices clear," says Linda St. Onge of the home economics and 4-H branch in Edmonton.

"This should apply not only to your home cooking, but also when you eat at a restaurant," she adds.

Undercooked hamburger carries a potential type of food poisoning commonly referred to as "hamburger disease" or "barbeque syndrome". Thorough cooking will destroy the **E. coli** bacteria associated with this type of food poisoning. While hamburger tops the list as a potential source of **E. coli**, it isn't the only candidate. The list includes all types of meat – the bacteria is usually found on the surface of all raw meats – and raw milk. Hamburger is more likely to be contaminated with this bacteria than other meats as during its grinding process surface contaminants spread through the uncooked ground meat.

A common question people ask is whether the "pink test" applies to steak notes St. Onge. "Because the bacteria is usually harboured on the meat's surface, the pink centre of a rare or medium steak shouldn't be dangerous as long as the outside of the steak has been cooked."

Handling meat safely can also prevent this and other types of food poisoning. Raw hamburger patties, and other meats, should be prepared quickly, cooked right away or put in the refrigerator. Cleanliness is also a critical part of food safety at home. For example, don't put cooked meat on the same plate the raw food was on. Wash your hands, utensils, cutting boards and counters with hot soapy water after handling raw meat.

Hamburger disease is a gastrointestinal illness caused by **E. coli** bacteria. The bacteria produces a poison, or toxin, that damages the intestine's lining and results in hemorrhagic colitis. Symptoms include severe stomach cramps, bloody diarrhea and a mild fever two to eight days after eating contaminated food. Anyone with those symptoms should contact their physician.

Most people recover from the illness within two weeks. In a very small number of cases, the **E. coli** toxin results in a serious, sometimes fatal complication, Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS). This kidney failure is especially dangerous to young children, the chronically ill and the elderly.

For more information on safe food handling and preparation, call the *Food Safety Information Line* Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. through 6 p.m. In the Calgary area, call 287-0098. Consumers in the rest of the province can call the line toll-free at 1-800-892-8333.

Or, call St. Onge in Edmonton at (403)427-2412 or Suzanne Tenold in Airdrie at (403)948-8504. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Linda St. Onge* *Suzanne Tenold*
(403)427-2412 *(403)948-8504*

Pack food safety to go

Keeping cold foods **cold** is one of the biggest food safety challenges of the summer says an Alberta Agriculture foods and nutrition specialist.

"Food safety is one of the things you have to pack along with your food," says Linda St. Onge.

"Handling and preparing foods safely is always important, but once you leave the advantages of your kitchen – in particularly the refrigerator – you must be extra careful and pay special attention," she adds.

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Food safety starts before you pack your picnic or meal to go. Always handle food carefully, make sure hands, utensils and work surfaces are clean. Prevent cross-contamination by cleaning cutting boards between uses. Don't put cooked meat on a plate used for raw meat.

Thoroughly chill fresh foods before packing them. Also, prechill coolers before packing them by filling with ice or ice water and let stand for an hour. Don't expect the impossible from a cooler stresses St. Onge. "Coolers are made to keep foods cool, not to make them cool. Choose a good cooler and use it properly."

Coolers should be well-insulated, form a tight seal when closed and have a rust-proof interior. Vinyl insulated bags and styrofoam ice chests are fine for short periods such as an hour or two, but aren't recommended for longer time periods.

To keep foods cool, put a layer of ice on the bottom and pack ice blocks around foods. "Edible" freezer packs such as frozen juice boxes make the most of cooler space. Since the bottom of the cooler is coldest, pack perishable foods there and eat them first. For best cooling, leave room for air to circulate inside the cooler. Open the cooler only when necessary.

"If your meal will be near a lake or stream, use a water-proof hamper and put it in the water, or find a shady place for the cooler," advises St. Onge.

One of the most common questions people have about picnic food is about salads and mayonnaise. "There's a common misconception that if the mayonnaise hasn't been added to the salad, then there's no problem with how the salad is stored," she notes.

"Harmful bacteria prefer a low acid environment such as meat, eggs, dairy products and vegetables. Mayonnaise is acidic and helps prevent bacteria growth. On the other hand, its extra moisture may promote bacterial growth," she explains. "What this means is that with or without the mayonnaise your potato, meat, fish or pasta salad still must be kept cold."

For more information call the *Food Safety Info Line* open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. through 6 p.m. In the Calgary area, call 287-0098. Consumers in the rest of the province can call the line toll-free at 1-800-892-8333. Or, call St. Onge in Edmonton at (403)427-2412.

Contact: Linda St. Onge
(403)427-2412

GM for Ag Products Marketing Council sought

The Agricultural Products Marketing Council is looking for a new general manager.

"We're seeking someone with a strong agricultural background who will be able to help fulfil the marketing council's mandate," says Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister.

The council has a four-part mandate that includes fostering effective, self-reliant commodity organizations that can respond to market place dynamics; enabling producer initiatives in marketing, research and development; broadening the focus of commodity organizations beyond regulatory control to encourage strategic planning; and, ensuring interests of all stakeholders are represented.

Working under the general direction of the council chair and the provincial agriculture department's minister, the general manager has a number of duties. They include planning and providing for legal and secretariat support to the council's appeals tribunal, acting as senior policy advisor to the council and minister and representing them on a wide range of federal/provincial issues related to agriculture.

Besides a strong agricultural background, candidates should have training in economics and marketing and possess extensive managerial experience related to marketing agricultural products. Preference will be given to agriculture, law and or business administration graduates.

This job competition closes on July 12. Interested individuals should submit their application and resume to Executive Search, Alberta Personnel Administration Office, 4th Floor, Peace Hills Trust Tower, 10011-109 Street, Edmonton, AB, T5K 3S8.

Contact: Don Dawson
(403)427-2111

Special crops conference covers sector range

A variety of experts will share their knowledge about the opportunities and profits available in special crops at a provincial conference July 25 through 27 in Calgary.

"Our lead speakers will examine processing, value-adding and market opportunities to start off the conference," says Nabi Chaudhary, *Special Crops Conference: Opportunities and Profits* conference chair.

Sandy Bibby, president of a food ingredient supply company, will kick-off the conference presentations. Bibby, who co-founded UFL Foods in the mid-1970s, will provide an

Cont'd on page 4

historical perspective of special crop development and then describe special crops processing in Canada. He'll also touch on market opportunities in Canada and other countries.

"Mr. Bibby has both a national and international perspective," notes Chaudhary. UFL Foods operates five plants in Canada, one in the U.S. and has joint ventures in France and Belgium. The company's products are sold to more than 30 countries globally.

"We're also very pleased to have Dr. Martin Reaney from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Saskatoon," says Chaudhary.

Reaney is a researcher with proteins, oils and starch (POS). He'll discuss his research findings about borage and its value as a special crop. As well, he'll talk about prospects for emerging special crops.

The conference agenda includes sessions about producing and marketing specific types of special crops including pulses, herbs and spices, ginseng, fibre crops and essential oils. How to market products, processing potentials, niche markets and a special crop market outlook are also covered.

Day three of the conference is a tour of southern Alberta processing facilities and special crop research plots.

Space is limited and pre-registration is encouraged. The early-bird registration rate ends on July 7. The rate is $100 and includes conference proceedings. Registration after July 7 is $120. There's also a tour-only rate of $35 available on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration cheques should be made payable to the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute and sent to #303, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

For more information about the conference, contact Chaudhary in Edmonton at (403)427-4005 or fax (403)427-5220; Mark Olson in Olds at (403)556-4220; or, Refe Gaudiel in Brooks at (403)362-3391. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Nabi Chaudhary
(403)427-4005

Exchanging their province for another

Five Alberta 4-H members will leave the province this week to experience another part of Canada.

Paula Macleod of Calgary, Amy Wisniewski of Hairy Hill, Lenore Andrews of Barrhead, Christine Holt of Lloydminster and Ryan Shumard of Grande Prairie are part of the national Royal Bank 4-H Interprovincial Exchange.

"Our delegates will leave Alberta on July 5, the same day as five 4-Hers from other provinces come here," says Marguerite Stark, Alberta Agriculture provincial 4-H programs specialist. [See separate story.]

The five Albertans will have an official send-off at a banquet in Calgary on July 4. They'll fly to their host province the next day. Two of the five will travel to Atlantic Canada, Macleod to Nova Scotia and Andrews to Newfoundland. Wisniewski will go to Quebec, Holt to British Columbia and Shumard to Saskatchewan.

"Each delegate stays with two host families during their trip," notes Stark. "This gives them a real opportunity to experience the lifestyles and cultures of the province they're visiting."

The Alberta 4-Hers earned the exchange trips at the annual 4-H *Provincial Selections Program*. Trip awards are based on 4-H and community involvement plus interpersonal skills.

Contact:	*Marguerite Stark* *(403)948-8510*	*Paula MacLeod* *(403)274-7202*
	Amy Wisniewski *(403)768-2272*	*Lenore Andrews* *(403)64-4287*
	Christine Holt *(403)875-8485*	*Ryan Schumard* *(403)766-2413*

4-H families to show "royal" Alberta time

Ten Alberta 4-H families will share their homes and their province for a week with out-of-province delegates in a national exchange program.

The Alberta families are hosts for an annual exchange sponsored by the Royal Bank of Canada. "All of the host families are involved with 4-H and are enthusiastic about showing Alberta and the Alberta lifestyle to other Canadians," says Marguerite Stark, Alberta Agriculture provincial 4-H programs specialist.

Royal Bank Interprovincial Exchange delegates will meet their first host family right after a welcoming breakfast in Calgary on July 6. They'll travel to the second host family on July 12, and leave Alberta on July 18.

"All five delegates will be hosted for a week each by two different families," she adds. "This gives the delegates a wonderful opportunity to see more than one part of Alberta and meet even more people."

The Lloyd and Cheryl Marshman family of Rockyford will host Alina Teichgrab of 100 Mile House in British Columbia. She'll then stay with the Dennis and Pat Borduzak family of Vimy.

Corilynn Tymiak of Kelliher, Saskatchewan will stay with the Lynda and Harry Hewson family of Delia and the A.R. and Carol Elliott family of Sangudo.

Mary and Harold Solick and family of Lacombe will host Annie Leger of St. Anicet, Quebec. Leger then moves on to stay with the Dale and Gladys Menzak family of Ranfurly.

Cont'd on page 5

Rhonda Barron of King's Cove, Newfoundland will stay first with the Terry and Faith Gabert family of Edberg and then with Barry and Bev McCarty and family in Vegreville.

Ken and Gladys Wocowich and family of Redwater will host Krista Pemberton of Windsor, Nova Scotia. She then travels to Hanna and stays with the Richard and Charlotte Preston family.

The same day the out-of-province delegates arrive, five Alberta delegates will travel to other parts of Canada through the same exchange. [See separate story.]

Contact:	*Marguerite Stark*	*(403)948-8510*
	Lloyd & Cheryl Marshman	*(403)533-2315*
	Dennis & Pat Borduzak	*(403)961-2251*
	Lynda & Harry Hewson	*(403)364-2298*
	A.R. & Carol Elliott	*(403)785-2690*
	Mary & Harold Solick	*(403)885-4348*
	Ken & Gladys Wacowich	*(403)942-4168*
	Dale & Gladys Menzak	*(403)658-2128*
	Terry & Faith Gabert	*(403)877-2427*
	Barry & Bev McCarty	*(403)632-7433*
	Richard & Charlotte Preston	*(403)854-3789*

4-Hers go to the border

Two Alberta 4-Hers will be in Canada's border city this week for *Operation Enterprize*.

Heath McCrindle of Byemoor and Tanya Rowe of Drumheller will be in Lloydminster from July 6 through 15 for a business management seminar at the city's Lakeland College campus.

"The seminar is designed to help delegates become stronger managers and leaders, help with career decisions and set personal goals," says Marguerite Stark, Alberta Agriculture provincial 4-H programs specialist.

Delegates will participate in small group discussions, workshops and meet one-to-one with top executives from the business world.

McCrindle and Rowe earned the right to attend this seminar at the annual 4-H *Provincial Selections Program*. Trip awards are based on 4-H and community involvement plus interpersonal skills.

Two businesses sponsor the 4-H delegates' participation. They are AEC Pipelines and the Nelson Lumber Foundation.

Contact:	*Marguerite Stark*	*(403)948-8510*
	Heath McCrindle	*Tanya Rowe*
	(403)579-2497	*(403)364-2619*

Agri-News briefs

Early bird catches special crops

July 7 is the early-bird registration deadline for the *Opportunities and Profits Special Crops Conference* July 25 through 27 in Calgary. The $100 early-bird rate includes five meals and conference proceedings. After July 7, registration goes up $20. The conference program covers the entire range of sector issues, from new special crops to processing, and from the minor crops through to niche markets. The final day is a tour of processing facilities and special crop research plots in southern Alberta. Make registration cheques payable to the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute and send to Nabi Chaudhary at #303, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

1995 Northlands Farm Family Awards announced

Northlands will honor 33 farm families from central and northern Alberta later this month during Edmonton's Klondike Days Exposition. Northlands' farm family awards committee chose the winners from nominations made by 33 agricultural service boards in the area north of Red Deer. Nominees were evaluated for their farming expertise and community involvement. Each farm family will receive an award certificate, family photograph and commemorative gate sign at a special luncheon on July 24. The awards program is co-sponsored by Northlands Park and AGT. The awards recognize the achievements of rural citizens, promote a better relationship between rural and urban people and encourage interest in Alberta's agriculture-related industries. For a list of the winners and more information, contact Cheryl Herchen at (403)471-7295 or fax (403)471-8176.

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Lakeland College field day for crop producers July 6

Lakeland College's *Crop Tech'95* features a trade fair, keynote speaker and field tours. The free event kicks off at 9 a.m. on July 6 at Lakeland College in Vermilion. Cropping technology displays will be open throughout the morning. Keynote speaker Morgan Webb makes his presentation at 10:15 a.m. Webb is an accredited seed analyst who has done research work for both the federal and provincial governments. His topic is seed quality and the value of seed testing. Research site tours and field scale demonstrations of new crop varieties, herbicides and direct-seeded peas and wheat are on tap in the afternoon. These field sites are located on the 650-acre student-managed farm operated by the college's crop technology program students. The field day is sponsored in co-operation with the Vermilion Agricultural Society, the County of Vermilion River and zone two of Alberta Pulse Growers Commissions. For more information, call the college at 1-800-661-6490, or Peter Walsh, crop technology instructor, at (403)853-8613.

CCA in Waterloo August 10-11

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) will hold its annual convention in Waterloo, Ontario August 10 and 11. Sessions include animal care practices proven to increase operational efficiencies, safety breeds quality, privatization of the grading system, a foreign trade panel and the current market situation. Before August 1, conference registration fees are $149 per person. A complete agenda and registration information are available from the CCA office in Calgary by calling (403)236-3659 or faxing (403)236-1007.

AUG 10 1995

AGRI-NEWS

July 10, 1995

Spicy presentation at special crops conference

A man with unique knowledge of spice raw materials is one of the speakers featured at a provincial special crops conference later this month in Calgary.

Hank Kaestner is director of spice procurement for McCormick and Company. During his career he's been responsible for buying all of the 40 different spices the Maryland-based company uses.

Kaestner will share his insights at *Special Crops Conference: Opportunities and Profits* July 25 through 27. He'll discuss herb and spice production trends, market opportunities and constraints, potential markets and the relationship of price, demand and supply.

"Mr. Kaestner's presentation will open the second day of the conference," notes conference chair Nabi Chaudhary.

Also speaking during the day two opening session is Gerry Gill of the Vancouver-based Chai-Na-Ta Corp. His topic is ginseng and its production and marketing opportunities.

"These are but two of the range of conference topics that covers the special crops sector," says Chaudhary.

Day one starts with a session on processing, value adding and market opportunities. It's followed by discussions of new products, processing potential and niche markets.

Day two also spotlights fibre crops such as hemp and linen flax, and essential oils. The afternoon switches to new crops including new pulse-type crops, how to market products and a market information outlook.

Day three is a tour. Conference participants will spend the day visiting processing facilities and special crop research plots.

Space is limited and pre-registration is encouraged. Registration after July 7 is $120. There's also a tour-only rate of $35 available on a first-come, first-served basis. Cheques can be made payable to the Alberta Agriculture Research Institute and sent to #303, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

For more information about the conference, contact Chaudhary in Edmonton at (403)427-4005 or fax (403)427-5220; Mark Olson in Olds at (403)556-4220; or, Refe Gaudiel in Brooks at (403)362-3391. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Nabi Chaudhary*
(403)427-4005

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Make the market come to you

Global crop conditions are starting to firm 1995 price prospects as well as indicate where demand for special crops will be this winter says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Problem growing conditions in many key countries will likely lead to opportunities for Canadian growers," says Matthew Machielse of the market analysis and statistics branch. For example, both Turkey and India are having crop production difficulties.

Turkey is a major competitor in the edible grade lentil market. "Reduced Turkish output could lead to very good trade prospects, particularly when coupled with declining U.S. acreage. So, Canada may be in a similar situation as this past year as a major supplier to Mediterranean and some Asian markets," he says.

A short monsoon season in India will reduce crop yields. India typically imports pulse food products. "Canadian pulse sales should be maintained or may expand with increased demand," says Machielse. "However, Australia will be back to compete in the pulse market in early 1996 and will be a factor late in the crop year."

Reduced pea and bean production in Europe should also benefit Canadian producters. "This should keep Canadian feed peas flowing to the European Union (EU) for the remainder of 1995," he adds.

Machielse notes lower Canadian currency values have also provided a competitive edge. "The current adjustment mechanisms within the EU haven't kept up and therefore our products are gaining a competitive edge to French and German feed exporters.

"The strong global outlook for feed products should keep a firm floor under feed peas," he adds. Thunder Bay new crop bids are similar to year ago level. Increased freight costs will lower farm gate bids by as much as $20 per tonne depending on location. However, he says he expects bids to strengthen into fall and absorb some of the freight charges.

Contact: Matthew Machielse
(403)427-5387

Weather swings through feedgrain and oilseed markets

Both feedgrain and oilseed markets reacted to uncertain weather and delayed seeding with volatile prices through June says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"It's been very much a weather market and is likely to remain one," says Al Dooley of the market analysis and statistics branch..

Wet weather in major U.S. corn growing areas slowed seeding activity. Seeding was also slow in western Canada and the U.S. soybean belt.

The size of the expected North American crop should pressure oilseed prices into the fall. A forecast Canadian canola crop of about seven million tonnes would be the second largest on record.

"Even with U.S. soybean and other international oilseed producers considered, producer prices around the $330 per tonne level for the 1995-96 season seem achievable," says Dooley. "And regardless of the final crop size, this summer should offer farmers a number of opportunities to price some of their 1995 crop at reasonably attractive levels."

In the feedgrains, the market is getting strong underlying support from the forecast small U.S. corn crop and generally tight global supplies of coarse grains. Closer to home, the market has kept strong on a belief barley stocks at the end of 1994-95 will be tight and that dry conditions in some areas has delayed getting cattle out on pasture and threatened new crop yields.

In Western Canada, feedgrain supplies are expected to be larger than last year with an increase in barley acres seeded and a probable increase in feed wheat supplies.

"The corn situation and global supply tightness is going to carry the day," notes Dooley. "Hopefully, Canadian producers will have good crops to sell to take advantage of the favorable global situation."

The Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) raised its Pool Return Outlook (PRO) in June in response to a small U.S. corn crop. For example, the June PRO for No.1 CW feed barley was pegged at $130 to $145 per tonne. The May PRO was $125 to $135.

Contact: Al Dooley
(403)427-5387

Cattle prices rise anyway

June beef markets were stronger than May's despite market indicators that pointed to falling prices says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

Alberta Direct Sale (ADS) steer prices rose from $78/cwt. in late May to an $83 to $85 range by the end of June. "These increased prices were a sub-trend of the market's overall trend," explains Doug Walkey.

There are six negative indicators in the market. Generally, the seasonal trend is down. The market is very current, at over 70 per cent, indicating sales are up-to-date and animals aren't being held back. Weekly cattle slaughter has been steady and above 1994 levels. Canadian beef production is up seven per cent from this time last year. Competitive meats are in large

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supply. Carcass weights are also higher this year. At nearly 750 lbs., they are up 15 lbs. from a year ago.

"On the other hand, there are four positive factors that have influenced the sub-trend," notes Walkey. Meat movement, especially in the U.S. has been very good. Heifers have been held back from the market as herds expand. The Canadian dollar fell throughout June. Markets are responsive as seen by a narrow difference between ADS and Chicago Mercantile Exchange future basis.

Walkey says the current price strength also appears to be a return to trend, or a correction from an overly pessimistic market mood. "The rapid fall of cattle prices had been a concern as the market moved lower and faster than was expected earlier this year."

What happens next in the Alberta market depends on the Canadian dollar says Walkey. He forecast average ADS prices of $82/cwt. for July, $76 in August, $78 in September, $81 in October and moving higher through to February 1996.

"If the dollar falls later this year, and that's likely given the political situation in Quebec, expect cattle prices to be higher," he says. "Besides raising Canadian beef prices, a falling dollar makes imported meats and meat products more expensive and less competitive," he adds.

D1,2 cow prices are right on track for the year. "The few sold are a good indication that herd expansion is still underway," says Walkey. "Expect the U.S. to add another three to five per cent to their herd. Enthusiasm over grain freight policy changes should cause a similar or even larger increase in Alberta's herd."

Contact: *Doug Walkey*
(403)427-4011

Hog prices exceed expectations

Alberta hog prices went well beyond expectations during June says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"The rise was amazing," says Doug Walkey. "Mid-May prices were near $1.30/kg dressed. By the end of the month, prices were around $1.62." At the same time, U.S. live hog prices climbed from $38/cwt. to $47/cwt.

"This market strength is surprising given industry expectations of several weeks ago. But the market did move upward and must have gained energy from somewhere even with large overall meat supplies and seasonally large frozen pork supplies," he adds.

Walkey says the likely explanation is a combination of two factors – U.S. seeding, harvest and weather problems reducing deliveries to market and high sales volumes through the past quarter leaving a gap in current marketings.

"This rally has exceeded the expected upward trend from seasonal price strength. I expect prices are likely to fall back a little," he adds.

Walkey projects hog prices to average $1.50/kg dressed through July dropping to $1.48 in August and $1.30 in September. These price forecasts are based on a 72.3 cent Canadian dollar.

Contact: *Doug Walkey*
(403)427-4011

4-H heifer show expects record participation

More than 250 4-Hers are expected to take part of the annual *Provincial 4-H Beef Heifer Show* next week in Bashaw.

"The largest provincial 4-H event just got bigger. We had so many entries that we had to close show entries on June 23," says Henry Wiegman, Alberta Agriculture provincial 4-H agriculture specialist. The 19th annual show is July 16 through 18 at the Bashaw Agricultural Society grounds.

Member participation is up by 50 per cent and livestock numbers by over 70 per cent with about 325 head expected. "One-third of all the provincial beef clubs will be represented. We have over 115 members coming to the show for the first time," he notes. "And, the host Bashaw Agriculture Society has ordered tents to use for stalling the extra cattle."

Entries were closed to maintain the program's quality. "We're extremely pleased with the tremendous response in terms of entries, but we want each participant to leave the program a little richer for the quality of experience. They need to learn, and we felt in order to keep the learning environmental most effective, we had to close the entries," explains Wiegman.

Wiegman encourages this year's late applicants to try again next year when the show celebrates its 20th anniversary.

The 4-Hers compete in grooming, judging, showmanship and conformation classes. There are also freshman classes for members who attend the provincial show for the first time. These classes combine showmanship skills and the animal's conformation.

The *Provincial 4-H Beef Heifer Show* has three major sponsors – the Bashaw Agricultural Society, Alberta Treasury Branches and UFA.

For more information, contact Wiegman or Rob Smith in Edmonton at (403)422-4444. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Henry Wiegman* *Rob Smith*
(403)422-4444 *(403)422-4444*

Alberta 4-Hers Montana bound

Four Alberta 4-Hers headed south of the border yesterday (July 9) and to their destination of Bozeman, Montana.

Connie Jacula of Vermilion, Russell Mappin of Byemoor, Michael Petersen of Sundre and Chelsea Tomlinson of Redwater earned the trip at the provincial *4-H Selections Program* this spring. Trip awards are based on 4-H and community involvement plus interpersonal skills.

"The group's ultimate destination is the annual Montana 4-H Congress, but they'll also spend four days travelling through the state visiting historical and agricultural points of interest," notes Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H programs specialist. Milo Barfuss, southern regional 4-H specialist, and Linda Rasmuson, a 4-H leader from Gwynne, are the trip chaperons.

At the congress, the Alberta delegates will join in the workshops, educational program, a variety of social events and observe 4-H project competitions.

The group will be back in Alberta on July 16.

Contact:
Marguerite Stark
(403)948-8510
Connie Jacula
(403)853-5263
Michael Petersen
(403)638-2123
Linda Rasmuson
(403)352-3513
Milo Barfuss
(403)381-5167
Russell Mappin
(403)579-2395
Chelsea Tomlinson
(403)736-2289

UFA supplies key to leader training

UFA is the new co-sponsor of a program that provides ongoing training to the Alberta 4-H movement's 60 key leaders.

The *Key Leader Program's* other partner is Alberta Agriculture. "UFA's contribution will enable key leaders throughout the province to stay up-to-date on new aspects of the 4-H program and pass information on to the 2,500 leaders and 7,500 4-H members in Alberta," says program co-ordinator Penny Wilkes.

The program has just completed its first year of operation she adds. Key leaders act as resource people for volunteer 4-H leaders and district councils. They deal with questions and concerns ranging from how to complete yearly diaries and assistance with public speaking, to parental involvement and keeping up club interest.

"Already the program's proving to be extremely successful due to the talent and enthusiasm of the key leaders. These key leaders have been able to assist club leaders, members and district councils and help them get the most from 4-H," says Wilkes.

"With the assistance of UFA, the program will expand. Alberta 4-H wishes to thank UFA for their continued support that makes initiatives such as the key leader program possible," she adds.

Contact: *Penny Wilkes*
(403)422-4444

Agri-News briefs

News good from wheat price perspective

Wheat markets were strong through June with U.S. futures gaining about 50 cents per bushel through the month. "Slow seeding progress in U.S. and Canadian spring wheat growing regions, combined with yield and quality concerns in U.S. winter wheat areas has kept this market on edge," says Al Dooley an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. As well, some weather related concerns have surfaced in China and the former Soviet Union. Forecast Canadian prices are higher than a month ago he adds. "The Canadian Wheat Board's June Pool Return Outlook (PRO) provided some support to concerns expressed about the fate of 1995-95 crop both domestically and internationally." Durum wheat price forecasts increased by $14 per tonne and other wheats by $7 per tonne compared to a month ago. For example, the June PRO range for No.1 CWRS wheat was $193 to $203 per tonne compared to $186 to $196 in May. For more information, contact Dooley in Edmonton at (403)427-5387. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

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Summer lamb price outlook improves

Tightened slaughter lamb supplies in the U.S. followed by an increase in wholesale carcass prices have improved the price outlook for early summer lambs. "Lamb prices continue to trend higher than in recent years," notes Don Hansen, an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. U.S. lamb production decreased eight per cent during the first six months of 1995 compared to the previous year. Canadian lamb and mutton slaughter fell over 14 per cent during the first five months of 1995 compared to 1994. Edmonton's mid-month sale saw slaughter lambs trade between $87.50 and $100/cwt. with an average price of $93/cwt. "Assuming no change in exchange rates from current levels, look for slaughter lambs to trade in the $85 to $95/cwt. range going into summer," predicts Hansen. For more information, contact Hansen in Edmonton at (403)427-4011. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Stable prices in feeder cattle market

Stable prices should be in order for the feeder cattle market through the summer says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "Feeder cattle prices have remained steady since the end of the grass cattle buying season and business is as usual in the feeder pens," says Doug Walkey. "As well, fed cattle prices are nearing the lower end of the cycle for the year and feeder calf supplies are entering their time of questionable supply when producers don't take calves off pasture for any price," he adds.Walkey estimates prices will come down and feeder prices will run about $15/cwt. lower than 1994 prices and $25 lower than for 1993. For more information, contact Walkey in Edmonton at (403)427-4011. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Volunteer loosestrife pull July 15

The first of a series of volunteer purple loosestrife pulls will be held in Fort Macleod on July 15. The noxious weed is an aggressive plant that invades wetlands, chokes out native vegetation and reduces available food and shelter for wildlife. This perennial weed can produce 2.5 million seeds per year. Those seeds are easily spread through streams, rivers and lakes. Highly competitive with other plants, the loosestrife seeds germinate quickly once they touch the ground. Because there aren't any registered chemical controls for aquatic areas, the weed is often pulled out by hand. Volunteer pulls are scheduled throughout the province. For more information or if you'd like to volunteer for a weed pull in your area, contact Stephen Dusek, the purple loosestrife project co-ordinator, in Edmonton at (403)427-7098. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

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AGRI-NEWS

July 17, 1995

CANADIANA

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Pulling for a weed-free cause

Volunteers will be pulling up their sleeves and pulling out purple loosestrife at several Alberta locations this summer.

The first pull is scheduled for Ritch's Point on Lake Wabamun on July 29. Two Edmonton area pulls are August 6 in Devon and August 12 in St. Albert on the Sturgeon River. The High River pull was postponed from mid-July to August 19. Two other pulls are planned, one in Sherwood Park's Village on the Lake and another along the Bow River in the Calgary area.

"These pulls are one way to combat purple loosestrife in aquatic areas because there aren't any chemicals registered to control this noxious weed," says Shaffeek Ali, chair of the provincial purple loosestrife action committee.

Ali encourages people to volunteer for the loosestrife pulls. "It's work, but it's also fun, educational and rewarding," he says.

For more information about the volunteer pulls or to volunteer, contact project co-ordinator Stephen Dusek in Edmonton at (403)427-7098. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Purple loosestrife is an aggressive plant that invades wetlands, chokes out native vegetation and reduces available food and shelter for wildlife. This perennial weed can produce 2.5 million seeds per year. Those seeds are easily spread through streams, rivers and lakes. Highly competitive with other plants, the loosestrife seeds germinate quickly once they touch the ground.

Purple loosestrife is easily recognized by its long, bright pink/purple flowers. Each flower has five to six petals growing on vertical spikes. It blooms from mid-July through September. It's also a tall plant growing to heights of between one and three metres. Its leaves are tongue shaped with smooth edges and attach directly to a four-sided stem.

Alberta gardeners have also been advised to destroy lythrum, a garden variety of purple loosestrife.

The weed isn't native to North America. It was introduced from Europe in the 1880s. The first Alberta infestation was reported in Medicine Hat in 1990. By 1994 a total of 65 infestation sites had been identified.

For more information or to report a purple loosestrife infestation, contact your municipal weed inspector.

Contact: *Shaffeek Ali*
(403)427-7098

Stephen Dusek
(403)427-7098

Double brand inspection fees eliminated

Duplicate fees for livestock brand inspections in Alberta and Saskatchewan have been eliminated for a six-month trial period as a result of a new livestock agreement between the two provinces.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
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Walter Paszkowski, Alberta's Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, and Andy Renaud, Minister of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, say the new agreement reflects ongoing efforts to reduce provincial trade barriers. This agreement removes duplicate livestock inspection requirements.

"We are pleased that the Saskatchewan and Alberta governments have reduced trade barriers for our livestock industry. At the Western Premiers' Conference in 1993, it was agreed that duplicate inspection fees are a trade barrier that should end," says Paszkowski. "The governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta are the first to enter into a Livestock Inspection Agreement to reduce the cost of selling cattle inter-provincially in the West."

The agreement eliminates duplicate livestock inspection requirements and fees for a trial period from July 1, 1995 to January 12, 1996. Both sides will review the project's effectiveness before the trial period ends. The agreement may be extended by mutual consent.

Renaud says the new agreement will reduce livestock producers' costs and will minimize disruption when transporting the animals. Saskatchewan producers will no longer require an inspection in Saskatchewan if they are shipping cattle to any inspected auction market in Alberta.

Alberta producers won't require an inspection in Alberta if they ship cattle to any inspected auction market or designated inspection points in Saskatchewan.

Shippers will make out a manifest in the province of origin. The only fees charged to the shipper will be in the province of sale. The fee for horned cattle will continue to be levied on Saskatchewan cattle delivered to Alberta.

Renaud says discussions between Alberta and Saskatchewan regarding distribution of the cattle marketing deduction and the impact on the structure of the national committee will continue. "Saskatchewan and Alberta will continue to work co-operatively to develop the necessary changes to meet the needs of the livestock industry."

Contact: Cliff Munroe
(403)427-4241

Merv Ross
(306)787-5957

June weather near normal

Alberta's June weather was near normal with total precipitation just slightly below normal and average temperature slightly above normal.

Climate stations averaged 70.6 mm of precipitation, 3.3 mm below the 1961 to 1990 average. The average monthly temperature for June was 14.9°C, 0.4 degrees above the long term average of 14.5°C. These averages are based on data recorded at 59 Environment Canada climate stations across the province.

"Those averages are deceptive because there were extreme amounts of rain in the southwest. It was also generally a very wet month in southern Alberta with flooding," says Peter Dzikowski, Alberta Agriculture weather resource specialist.

The southwest corner of the province received 100 to 200 mm, or 100 to 250 per cent of normal precipitation in agricultural areas. Even greater amounts were reported in the foothills and mountains. The entire southern region reported between 20 and 200 mm of precipitation, about 30 to 250 per cent of normal.

"Pincher Creek received the most precipitation of any agricultural area during June, reporting 190 mm or 257 per cent of its long term average," notes Dzikowski.

"In comparison to the south, the rest of the province was dry," he adds. "The driest areas were the northern Peace, central and northeastern agricultural regions. Vegreville was the driest location with only 25.4 mm, or 35 per cent of its normal June precipitation."

The Peace region reported between 40 and 90 mm of precipitation. The south Peace was wetter than the north. Central and northeast regions reported between 25 and 100 mm of precipitation, 30 to 120 per cent of normal.

On the temperature side, all regions except the south reported heat units two to four days ahead of 1994. The above normal heat units in June helped make up for a below normal May.

"Central, northeast, northwest and the Peace regions reported heat units two to four days ahead of last year and two to four days above normal," he says. "The southern region reported heat units one day ahead of last year, and one day below the long term norm." Heat units, also called growing degree days, relates temperature to crop growth.

The Crowsnest Pass reported 11.2°C, the coldest monthly average. However that was only 0.6 degrees below normal. Coincidently, the warmest monthly average temperature was 0.6 degrees above its normal. Empress reported 17.8°C, the warmest June average temperature in the province.

For more information, contact Dzikowski in Edmonton at (403)422-4385.

Contact: Peter Dzikowski
(403)422-4385

Dutch touch at Special Crops Conference

A Dutch researcher is one of the featured speakers at a special crops conference later this month in Calgary.

Willem Meijer, of the Research Institute for Agrobiology and Soil Fertility (AB-CLO) in Wagengingen, will discuss his new

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crop and product research in a session on fibre crops during the *Special Crops Conference: Opportunities and Profits*.

The conference runs July 25 through 27 and will cover a full range of production, processing and marketing topics in the special crops sector.

"We're pleased to have Dr. Meijer at the conference to share his expertise. He has worked in the special crops area since 1986 with a research focus on inulin, fibres and special fatty acids," notes conference chair Nabi Chaudhary.

Since 1990, Meijer has co-ordinated a national program that uses carvone, from the special crop caraway, to inhibit natural sprouting in stored potatoes. He's also coached doctoral students on hemp, winter rape and grass seed physiology.

Ken Domier, a University of Alberta renewable resources professor, will also discuss fibre crops, in particular their uses and production and marketing potential.

"We're also fortunate to have local expertise at the conference," says Chaudhary.

Two of the Alberta speakers are Alberta Agriculture specialists. Susan Lutz, projects manager at the Food Processing Development Centre in Leduc, will discuss product development initiatives at the centre, new products and processing potential and niche markets. Special crop researcher Refe Gaudiel of the Crop Diversification Centre, South in Brooks will talk about new pulse type and other new special crops.

Other Alberta based speakers are Tony Evans of Norac Technologies in Edmonton, Paul Murphy, president of Food and Beverages Canada, Rod Bradshaw of Bec Farms in Innisfail and Blair Roth of Alberta Pool's special crops business unit in Lethbridge.

Space is limited and pre-registration is encouraged. Registration after July 7 is $120. There's also a tour-only rate of $35 available on a first-come, first-served basis. Cheques can be made payable to the Alberta Agriculture Research Institute and sent to #303, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

For more information about the conference, contact Chaudhary in Edmonton at (403)427-4005 or fax (403)427-5220; Mark Olson in Olds at (403)556-4220; or, Refe Gaudiel in Brooks at (403)362-3391. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Nabi Chaudhary*
(403)427-4005

Pick larva to control sawfly

If spruce tree needles mysteriously disappeared from your trees during June, now may be the time to prevent the same event next year says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

The yellowheaded spruce sawfly stops feeding in mid July. Its larvae drops to the ground where they spin cocoons in the soil. This is where they spend the winter.

"To control the insect, prevent damage next year and even save your trees, you have a couple of options," says Shelley Barkley, information officer at the Crop Diversification Centre, South in Brooks.

One option is to hand pick the larva from the tree. The other is to hose the larva with water. Malathion and permethrin are two chemical control alternatives.

"The biggest trick to controlling this insect is actually seeing them. The yellowheaded spruce sawfly is well camouflaged and looks a lot like the needles it eats," she adds.

When newly hatched, the sawflys are caterpillar-like and yellowish green in color. They have a yellow or green head. Mature insects are two cm long with either a yellow or red head. The body is green with grey-green stripes running from head to tail and is waxy looking.

Sawflies first eat tender new needles. As the pest grows, so does its appetite. Eventually it will eat whole needles and work its way back to old growth.

Characteristics of an infected tree are a shabby appearance and a yellowish brown color. In an excessive attack, trees can be stripped of all their needles.

Sawfly attacks can even cause a tree to die. "Repeated attacks weaken trees, making them more susceptible to other factors such as adverse weather conditions," explains Barkley.

Contact: *Shelley Barkley*
(403)362-3391

Alberta Agriculture appointments

New crop specialist in High River

Kelly Patzer is Alberta Agriculture's newest crop specialist. Based in High River, Patzer's work will be with cereal and oilseeds. As a district specialist, he'll work with producers, agribusiness and research groups on crop production activities. A 1989 graduate of the University of Saskatchewan's agriculture program, Patzer majored in crop science and plant ecology. His background includes a stint after university at a small bio-tech firm working with plant tissue culture. Most recently, he spent a year as manager of the Manitoba Crop Diversification Centre in Carberry. In between, he returned home to Swift Current where he worked in land management services with the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA). Patzer grew up on a mixed livestock, grain and forages farm near Swift Current. His introduction to Alberta was wet as he started his new job the same week as flooding in

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High River and other parts of southern Alberta. Patzer admits that his family and friends have joked, "Where I go the water comes." When he was there, Swift Current experienced some of its wettest years and Manitoba recently had spring flooding. Patzer can be reached in High River at (403)652-8302.

Provincial beef veterinarian appointed

Joyce Van Donkersgoed is the new Alberta Agriculture provincial beef health management veterinarian. She'll provide animal health and veterinary expertise as a member of the *beef group* team of specialists in the department's animal industry division. Her responsibilities include liaison with veterinarians and advice on animal health issues and procedures in beef group applied research projects. Van Donkersgoed graduated from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) in Saskatoon in 1985 and also completed a masters' degree in beef cattle production medicine and epidemiology there in 1989. She worked in a cattle practice for two years before moving to research positions with WCVM and the Veterinary Infectious Diseases Organization (VIDO) from 1989 through 1994. Van Donkersgoed also worked as an epidemiologist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Her current research projects focus on factors that affect pre-slaughter beef quality and safety. Dr. Van Donkersgoed can be reached in Lacombe at (403)782-5153 or (403)782-8105.

Agri-News briefs

Market gardeners invite you to their farms

Despite a slow start with cool weather, Alberta's market gardeners are gearing up for a good season. The Alberta Market Gardeners Association (AMGA) has two *Come to Our Farm* guides available. One covers the southern region and the other the northern part of the province. Guides are available from public libraries across the province, Home Hardware stores in larger centres and from Alberta Agriculture district offices. As well, there's a toll-free hotline to tell what's in season and market events. The number is 1-800-661-AMGA (2642). For more information, contact Judith Butt, AMGA promotions manager, in Bonnyville at (403)826-1709.

Progress in Peas field day and tour July 19

A *Progress in Peas* field day and tour runs July 19 at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville. The day starts with a breakfast between 7:30 and 9 a.m. The tour starts at 9 a.m. and covers 28 regional variety, fertility, seeding rates, inoculants, disease information/control and weed control trials as well as examples of germination, mechanical damage and seed vigor. A noon lunch follows. The cost is $15. The event is sponsored by zone two of the Alberta Pulse Growers Commission and Alberta Agriculture. To pre-register, contact one of these Alberta Agriculture district offices: Lamont at (403)895-2219, Vermilion at (403)853-8101 or St. Paul at (403)645-6301.

Joint pulse/soft wheat tours July 24 & 28

The Alberta Pulse Growers Commission and Alberta Soft Wheat Growers Commission are holding two field tours next week. The Taber field tour is Monday July 24. The Bow Island area event is July 28. The Taber tour includes provincial and federal government and DowElanco research plots. The Bow Island plots include biological sclerotinia control and solid seeded beans. Barbeque lunches follow both morning tours. For more information about either tour, contact Elizabeth Tokariuk in Lethbridge at (403)381-5127. For information about the Taber tour, contact Jorg Klempnauer at (403)655-2420 or about the Bow Island tour, contact Will Van Roessel at (403)545-6018.

U of A Kinsella ranch day and workshop

A day-long field day and workshop runs August 3 at the University of Alberta Kinsella ranch. Activities begin at 9:45 a.m. at the ranch just north of Kinsella's main street. Presentations include future research at the ranch, return of the buffalo, weaning strategies, tongue lesions and hoof cracks, and watering from dugouts. The University's bison research program has been relocated to Kinsella from Ministik. Also on the agenda are ongoing and new research in range and cattle management, plus a wetland conservation

Cont'd on page 5

program at the ranch. Registration is $10 and a barbeque that follows is $5. The beef is from the ranch. For more information, contact Mick Price at (403)336-3528 or ranch manager Gary Minchau at (403)336-3528.

Olds College instructors receive North American teaching award

Six of Olds College's top instructors have won the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISDO) Excellence Award. The recipients are Pat Bidart, co-ordinator of transitional vocational and academic upgrading programs; Ian Hall, agricultural production instructor; Jim Kubiak, equine science instructor and instructional enterprise manager; Ray Gesshe, land sciences instructor and instructional enterprise manager; Doug Peters, land resource management/seed and grain co-ordinator; and, Pat Martens, fashion merchandising and production, and liberal arts co-ordinator. The NISDO emphasizes the importance of teaching excellence in community colleges. For more information, contact Robert Lockwood, Olds College vice-president academic, at (403)556-8300.

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AGRI-NEWS

July 24, 1995

Alberta teens – It can happen to you

It's happened once and it's going to happen again, and maybe to you. That's the invitation Alberta Agriculture, UFA and CBC Alberta News have for Alberta teens.

It Can Happen to You is the theme of a second consecutive farm safety campaign by the three partners. The campaign invites rural teenagers to produce a farm safety message that eventually will hit the airwaves.

"We're following up on the exceptional success of and tremendous response to our first campaign, *The Way We See It*," says Jacqueline Galloway of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program.

Nearly 250 students responded to the *The Way We See It* challenge of putting together a 30-second television commercial promoting farm safety to teenagers. A total of 67 entries were received from across the province. Roxan Gawryluk's way of seeing farm safety earned her a $2,500 scholarship, the opportunity to be executive producer of her commercial and see the finished product on CBC television airwaves this spring.

Gawryluk's message also spawned the theme for this year's campaign notes Galloway. She used county music star Charlie Major's song *It Can't Happen to Me* as the theme of her safety message. Not only did Major agree to let his song be used, he also appeared on the final commercial.

"Plans are to expand the campaign two ways," says Galloway. First, the contest has been opened to junior high school students. Second, the contest will now include radio as well as television.

"We're very excited about this second campaign," says Jim Watt of UFA member relations. "Last year exceeded our expectations and we're confident Alberta teens will again help us to get the farm safety message out to teenagers."

UFA will supply scholarships for the top two entries in both the television and radio competitions.

"Last year the submissions had outstanding ideas and concepts. We're looking forward to this year's entries and putting them together for all of Alberta to see," says Beverley Jackson, CBC Alberta News national network sales manager.

CBC's commitment includes a promotional video to send to schools and producing and airing the final commercials.

More details about the contest will be available in the early fall when the campaign is officially launched.

Contact: Jacqueline Galloway
(403)427-2171
Beverley Jackson
(403)521-6189

Jim Watt
(403)258-4508

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Experience summer's flavor at Alberta market gardens

Albertans can experience the fresh taste of summer from more than 150 market gardens around the province.

"Our members have again issued the invitation to *come to our farm*," says Judy Butt, promotions manager for the Alberta Market Garden Association.

July through September are the peak of fruit and vegetable crops. To find out what's in season and about any special events, the association has a toll-free hotline, 1-800-661-AMGA (2642).

"We also have two guides to our member market gardens," she notes. One guide lists northern growers and the other, southern market gardens.

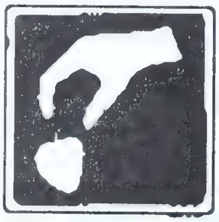
Each guide includes a map plus a listing of the market garden with telephone number, directions and what the individual market garden offers. This includes the types of fruits and vegetables, whether the market gardener goes to Farmers' Markets, custom ordering, other products such as herbs and bedding plants, if there's u-pick and facilities such as picnic areas, playgrounds, tea houses and trails.

Guides are available from public libraries across the province, from Alberta Agriculture district offices, from AMGA members or by calling the hotline.

The guide also has tips on what to wear if you go to pick your own fruits or vegetables. There's also a no-cook strawberry jam recipe.

Market garden highway signs (below) also indicate the location of market gardens.

Contact: Judy Butt
(403)826-1709



U.S. mini-trade shows yield results

Alberta food processors continue to earn dividends from participating in specialized mini-trade shows.

"We're seeing measurable results from the approach of directly linking small and medium-sized Alberta companies with potential U.S. buyers," says Dave Rous, Alberta Agriculture trade director and a project co-organizer.

Several companies that took part in Pacific northwest and northern California shows have appointed U.S. brokers. One company is changing its packaging to suit the particular market. Another has put together a U.S. label with the required nutritional and other information.

"One company has also successfully listed three varieties of its product with a major California supermarket chain and had the same sort of success in Seattle," notes Rous.

Rous credits the unique approach, a method unlike traditional trade shows, solo shows or individual appointments with a company, as a factor in the Alberta companies' success. Up to a dozen small and medium sized Alberta companies set up table top displays with product samples in a meeting room. Each buyer – from brokers to retailers – spend approximately two hours meeting with the Alberta companies. This is repeated with separate buyers over a number of days.

This format emphasizes market education and awareness on both sides. The Alberta companies learn about the particular U.S. target market. The U.S. buyers discover the quality and diversity of Alberta Made products.

"Both the Alberta companies and the U.S. buyers have said they appreciate this method as effective and efficient," he adds.

Rous says the next target market is Minneapolis. The mission will again be a team effort of Alberta Agriculture, the Alberta Food Processors Association (AFPA) and the participating Alberta companies.

Contact: Dave Rous
(403)427-4241

Denis puts conservation 3Rs into song

Conservation messages in song are one reason Kim Denis is the 1995 recipient of the Grant MacEwan Conservation Award.

Denis, an eight-year member of the Blindman 4-H Lighthorse Club, earned the award for her activities since she attended the annual provincial 4-H conservation camp last summer.

The MacEwan award recognizes a graduate conservation camper who best spreads the conservation message after taking part in conservation camp. It was established in 1975, the tenth anniversary of the camp.

Denis received a sculptured plaque and $300 from sponsors TransAlta Utilities and Alberta Power. The presentation is scheduled for July 28 during the 1995 camp at the Battle Lake provincial 4-H centre.

The Red Deer College student says she tried to make her activities follow the 3Rs of reduce, reuse and recycle. That included home, college, 4-H club and other community activities.

Her family started to recycle wood by building a variety of things including Christmas lawn ornaments. Recycling containers and smaller, refillable bottles have reduced the

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family's garbage. She rounded up a variety of old scribblers and used them instead of buying paper for her college needs.

Denis and her father carpooled from their home near Lacombe to Red Deer. She influenced fellow cast members in a musical to car pool or walk to rehearsals.

Music was another way she influenced the general public. Denis sang songs with conservation messages when performing at a local conference and Christmas fundraiser. Two were based on familiar tunes with words written by Denis. She says her audiences told her the songs had made them think.

Denis also gave up a lot of Saturday mornings to count popcans. Her 4-H club used cans as a fund raiser. She says people were reluctant at first, but eventually the club recycled an "amazing number of cans". "It was great to see the 4-H members think about the environment all the time, instead just on the day of highway clean-up," says Denis.

Paper recycling was also part of her activities. As a student teacher she encouraged students to use recycling boxes in their classrooms. She also influenced her own classmates to recycle used paper.

The award is named for Grant MacEwan, former Alberta lieutenant governor, and a well-known conservationist.

Contact: *Carol Sullivan*
(403)422-4444

Direct seeding could boost field pea yields

Preliminary results suggest direct seeding field peas is possible and could reduce producer costs says an Alberta Agriculture research agronomist.

"Field peas are well suited to direct seeding," explains Eric Oosterhuis of the conservation and development branch. "They do well in cooler soil temperatures that can occur on direct seeded fields. Also, they're a large-seeded crop so optimum seeding depth isn't so critical."

In 1994, Oosterhuis and Tom Jensen, a soil conservation specialist, evaluated four pea cultivars under conventional tillage, minimum tillage and direct seeding systems, and three herbicide treatments (no herbicide, Basagran and Pursuit).

"In our initial test, direct seeded peas significantly out yielded peas grown under conventional and minimum tillage systems," he notes.

Now Oosterhuis is conducting a more detailed, two-year study at Edmonton on a Black soil and Warburg on a Grey Luvisol soil.

"Last summer was relatively dry so direct seeding provided a noticeable yield benefit because it conserves soil moisture. In years with higher precipitation, we would expect yields under the different tillage systems to be more similar," says Oosterhuis.

The study is comparing yields and economics for four pea cultivars – Montana, Highlight, Radley and Patriot – using direct seeding, conventional tillage and minimum tillage. All plots are split into five herbicide treatments: no herbicide; fall broadcast Edge (no incorporation on the direct seeded plots); post-emergent Basagran; post-emergent Pursuit; and, post-emergent Cyanamid 263 (not registered)

"Direct seeding conserves soil and soil moisture. It may also provide economic benefits for pea growers," says Oosterhuis. "By comparing the costs and returns for the different field pea cropping systems, we hope to develop a good information base to help producers decide which cropping system is best for their farm."

This research is supported by the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute's matching grant funding and Dow Elanco.

More information on the project can be found in the *Irrigation and Resource Management Division Applied Research Report, 1994-1995* available from the conservation and development branch in Edmonton at (403)422-4385.

Contact: *Eric Oosterhuis*
(403)422-6530

Ram test top-seller goes for $1,200

A Suffolk ram with an average daily gain (ADG) of 0.568 kg per day sold for $1,200 at the recent 1995 *Alberta Ram Test Station Sale*.

Jerry Van Braak of Lethbridge bought the top-selling ram. It was from Brian Kure's flock. Kure is from Spruce View.

"This wasn't the fastest gaining ram we had at the test station," notes Cathy Gallivan, the station manager. That honor went to a ram from Walt Strand's Lethbridge herd. The Suffolk ram had an ADG of 0.639 kg per day. An Oregon couple bought the ram for $1,025.

A total of 40 rams on-test at the station were sold at the wrap-up sale. The average price was $470. The test station is located at Olds College. The sale was at the Olds Cow Palace, held in conjunction with the Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association (ASBA) Wild Rose Sale.

Bill Matejka of Ponoka won the ASBA trophy for the breeder with the highest group ADG for four or more rams. His five Suffolk rams averaged 0.572 kg per day.

Mike and Linda Rieberger of Bowden claimed the Canadian Co-operative Woolgrowers award for the highest wool index on a yearling ram in the wool breeds test.

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AGRI-NEWS
July 31, 1995

Border vet inspection required when horses return from U.S.

Ten days ago (July 21) federal veterinarians began inspecting all horses coming into Canada from the U.S.

Normally, horses returning to Canada within 30 days of veterinarian certification could enter without an inspection at any border crossing. "This provision has been suspended to prevent vesicular stomatitis coming into the country," says Les Burwash of Alberta Agriculture's horse industry section. As well, horse owners must pay a $30 inspection fee for the first horse and $5 for each additional horse.

Vesicular stomatitis (VS) was diagnosed in New Mexico this May, and more recently in Arizona, Colorado, Texas and Wyoming. The Canadian border has been closed to livestock imported or returning from these states with the VS outbreak.

"Any horse owner who plans to attend rodeos, horse shows or other horse events in these states or bordering states should check with Agriculture Canada for an update on return restrictions," recommends Burwash.

While VS spread close to the Canadian border in 1982, Canada is free of the disease. However the four Western Canadian provinces are at greatest risk of an outbreak.

The viral disease can affect horses, cattle and swine. "Its similarity to foot-and-mouth disease in species other than horses is the particular concern," notes Burwash. Foot-and-mouth disease, eradicated in Canada in 1952, is the most feared foreign animal disease.

Burwash says veterinarians and livestock owners should be alert for animals displaying clinical signs of VS. It has influenza-like symptoms such as fever and occasional blistering in and around the mouth as well as hooves and teats. Excessive salivation is often a first sign. The incubation period ranges from two to eight days.

"All suspicious cases should be reported to the nearest Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada district veterinarian," adds Burwash.

Contact: Les Burwash
(403)948-8532

New code of practice sensitive to environment and industry

A new code of practice for handling animal wastes in Alberta has been released by the provincial agriculture department.

"Both the environment and the livestock industry can benefit from this new code of practice and associated intensive livestock development permitting process," says C.D. (Doug) Radke, deputy minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

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Code of Practice for the Safe and Economic Handling of Animal Manures provides land-use siting guidelines for livestock facilities and practical alternatives for animal manure storage and use. It is just one component of an action plan developed by Alberta's eight major livestock organizations in co-operation with two rural municipal associations and the Alberta government over the past three years.

The action plan also includes an intensive livestock development permitting process, available to all rural municipalities on a voluntary basis. This process is designed to help local governments make development approval decisions for new and expanding intensive livestock facilities, especially now as the industry moves toward larger and more intensive management systems.

"As part of this permitting process, the Code of Practice provides the basis for municipalities and this department to assess the environmental sensitivity of intensive livestock operations before development takes place," says Radke. "Environmental screening will ensure the siting and manure management aspects of proposed developments are reviewed."

Alberta Agriculture will take the lead role in providing technical assistance for those proposed developments considered environmentally sensitive and refine them, if necessary, to minimize nuisance and environmental impacts.

"I encourage municipalities to use the permitting process to assist them in their planning decisions," he adds.

The livestock industry's commitment to environmental sustainability is recognized through the new Code of Practice. Safe and economic handling means producers are encouraged to derive all benefits from livestock manure while ensuring any potential effects on soil, air and water resources are minimized.

The new code replaces Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Environment's 1982 publication *Confinement Livestock Facilities Waste Management Code of Practice.*

Code of Practice for the Safe and Economic Handling of Animal Manures is available for $10 from the publications office. To order by credit card (Visa or MasterCard), call the department's central publications office in Edmonton at (403)427-0391 or toll-free at 1-800-292-5697. Or, send cheque or money order payable to the Provincial Treasurer to Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Please add $2 for postage and handling plus GST.

Contact: *Rick Atkins* *Rich Smith*
(403)381-329-1212 *(403)948-8511*
Tamara Hursin/Mike Pearson
(403)427-5359

Testing alfalfa cultivars for yields plus salinity control

Research is going beyond the established fact that alfalfa can effectively control saline seeps to find out what alfalfa cultivars give the best salinity control along with the highest yields says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

Saline seeps form when ground water brings salts to the soil surface. Saline soil results in poor crop growth and lower yields. Alfalfa can control saline seeps by reducing the flow of ground water to seeps.

"Alfalfa roots penetrate deeply into the soil and can extract over 20 inches of moisture every year. This lowers the water table so less ground water flows to the saline seep," explains soil salinity specialist Don Wentz.

But different alfalfa cultivars differ markedly in rooting depth, soil water extraction and yield. Each cultivar also performs differently in different soil zones. As well, currently recommended alfalfa cultivars for salinity control are based on research done in Montana before 1980 when many of today's improved varieties weren't available.

So, Wentz and Surya Acharya of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada are comparing 12 alfalfa cultivars at three sites. Plots at Oyen, on Brown soils, are being operated with help from the Chinook Applied Research Association. The Lakeland Applied Research Association is assisting with plots at Mundare on Black soils. Plots on Dark Brown soils are at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Lethbridge Research Station.

The plots were seeded in 1994. Over the next six years, the research team will monitor rooting depth, soil moisture and yields for the 12 cultivars.

The study is comparing Beaver, a common alfalfa cultivar, with four verticillium wilt-resistant cultivars, one mutli-leaf cultivar, three dryland varieties and three Flemish types.

"The information from our project will help us develop reliable cultivar recommendations so producers can have good alfalfa yields and good salinity control," says Wentz.

A report on the first year of this project appears in the *Irrigation and Resource Management Division Applied Research Report, 1994-1995* available from the conservation and development branch at 422-4385.

Contact: *Don Wentz*
(403)381-5862

Alfalfa needs fertilizer too

Farmers often don't fertilize irrigated alfalfa because it has a reputation as a crop that improves soil fertility, but research has shown nutritional soil deficiencies in fields where alfalfa was grown.

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"Over the past six years we've been examining the question of whether alfalfa needs fertilizer, particularly the fertilizer needs of irrigated alfalfa," says Colin McKenzie, an Alberta Agriculture soil and water agronomist.

"Besides alfalfa's reputation, fertilizer applications to alfalfa often don't show visible results. So, farmers apply less nitrogen fertilizer to cereal crops grown in the first year or two after alfalfa," he adds.

However, alfalfa forage requires and removes large quantities of nutrients from the soil. An average alfalfa crop – about four and a half tons per acre – removes 27 lbs of phosphorus per acre and 220 lbs. of potassium per acre. In comparison, an average wheat crop – 60 bushels per acre – takes about 15 lbs. of phosphorus and 21 lbs. of potassium per acre.

A study survey between 1989 and 1993 confirmed that fertilizer rates used on alfalfa were much less than the nutrients the crops used. Nearly 100 irrigated fields in the Brooks, Vauxhall and Bow Island areas were sampled.

The study survey also found fewer than one-third of farmers applied sufficient phosphorus to their alfalfa stands. Only 14 per cent applied small amounts of potassium. Nine per cent applied manure to their alfalfa fields. Just over one-third of farmers used nitrogen fertilizer, but most of this was applied to cover crops during the establishment year.

As part of the study, soil and plant tissue samples were taken and analyzed. This also pointed to another need notes McKenzie. Soil test limits were developed in Alberta under mostly dryland conditions and aren't reliable on high pH irrigation soils. Tissue test values from the U.S. were used and haven't been evaluated for Alberta irrigation conditions.

"More research is needed to establish reliable methods for predicting phosphorus and potassium fertilizer responses," he says. "At present, the best alternative is for farmers to rely on a combination of soil and tissue analysis."

However, the study did yield some general recommendations he adds. If soil and tissue phosphorus are low, significant increases in yield can be obtained from phosphorus fertilizer. Potassium fertilizers should give responses on sites where the soil potassium is marginal or low. If the soil has a high pH value – above 7.8 – the Kelowna methods of analysis for soil phosphorus appear to be more reliable than the traditional Miller Axley method.

The study was conducted by soils and water staff at the Crop Diversification Centre, South in Brooks along with two Alberta Agriculture soils and crop nutrition specialists, Ross McKenzie of Lethbridge and Len Kryzanowski of Edmonton.

Contact: R. Colin McKenzie
(403)362-3391

Computer modelling soil salinity control

Computer models are helping researchers determine how effective soil salinity controls measures are at three Alberta study sites.

The four-year project is a co-operative venture between Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the University of Saskatchewan with funding from the Canada-Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (CAESA).

"We're monitoring sites near Carmangay, Crossfield and Forestburg to produce the data we need for the computer models," says Bill Read, Alberta Agriculture soil conservation technologist.

"The Forestburg and Carmangay site models are still in the preliminary stage, while modelling Crossfield data is nearly complete," he adds.

At Crossfield, alfalfa has been used to control shallow groundwater and soluble salt movement into the root zone. This vegetative control has been in place for three years and has shown considerable benefit.

"Using alfalfa as a salinity control measure provided an opportunity to establish a level of sustainability on a piece of land that had limited agricultural value in the past," explains Read.

"The site landowner says the saline portion of the land was once an economic detriment. High input costs and low productivity didn't make good farming sense," he adds.

However, the land is returning to productivity and alfalfa is credited with this success. Both 1993 and 1994 alfalfa crops averaged 5.6 tonnes per hectare (2.5 tons per acre).

As well, snow fencing is being evaluated at the Crossfield site. Fences are strategically placed at right angles to prevailing winds in areas where significant salt levels have accumulated in the soil.

"This technique is still in the early evaluation stage, however it's hoped that additional water from the trapped snow will move downward in the spring and leach salts from the surface soils," he says.

Contact: Bill Read at (403)381-5860

Beefed-up totals at provincial 4-H heifer show

Nearly 100 more 4-Hers than ever before took part at the recent 19th annual *Provincial 4-H Beef Heifer Show*.

"We had 260 4-H members from 81 clubs for the 1995 show. That's 95 more people, plus over 100 head more livestock

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than the record-breaking participation of 1994," says Henry Wiegman, Alberta Agriculture provincial 4-H agriculture specialist.

"As you might expect, there were a lot of new faces at the show. In total there were 115 4-Hers in the freshman competitions for first time show participants," he adds. Freshman classes are based 60 per cent on the members' showmanship skills and 40 per cent on their animal's conformation.

While it may have been their first time at the provincial event, freshman competitors proved they knew their way around a show ring. Top senior freshman, Colleen Claiter of the Chestermere Beef Club, also claimed top senior showmanship honors. Junior freshman champion Amanda Thomas of Fort Saskatchewan also teamed with clubmate Laura Bodell to claim both junior grooming and judging team titles.

The intermediate freshman title went to Kyley Johanson of the Lakedell 4-H Club.

The three-day competition opened with team grooming events. Senior winners were Darcy Clark and Bob Sparks of the Edgerton 4-H Beef Club. Intermediate winners Kurt and Kristi Trefiak are members of the same club. This brother-sister combination also won the same title last year and have won grooming titles in each of the last five years. They also claimed the '95 intermediate team judging title. Along the way Kurt was first and Kristi fourth in the individual competition.

Judging, freshman and showmanship competitions were held during the second day. High junior individual judge was Amy Rae Fox of the Armena 4-H Beef Club, and with partner Shannon Pasiuk of the Camrose Beef Club placed second in the team category. Fox also claimed top junior showmanship honors.

In the senior judging class, Richard Grant and Tracy Gardner of the Mountainview district received top team honors. Gardner was also the individual reasons winner and second overall in individual judging to Maureen Mappin of Big Valley Beef Club.

A special feature of the judging classes is the show ring competition where the team members act as judge and ringman in live show ring judging. Clint and Derek Sutter of the Battle River Beef Club, who finished third in team judging, claimed the show ring title. Along with the team of Grant and Gardner, they'll represent Alberta at the Western Canadian Livestock Finals in August.

The intermediate showmanship winner was Angela Northey of the Bashaw 4-H Club.

The final show day featured conformation classes. Two rings were in action given the 280 head of cattle entered in the classes.

With one exception, all 4-Hers with the supreme and reserve supreme champions had earned first or second place ribbons in earlier, non-conformation competitions. The exception was supreme crossbred winner Trisha Burger of the Lakemere club. Burger's two-year old Simmental-cross cow with a January calf took the crossbred championship over Sarah Northey's Angus/Maine Anjou cross heifer.

A two-year-old cow also claimed the top spot in the overall purebred championship. Derek Sutter's Simmental was the supreme champion, with Laura Bodell's Limousin yearling the reserve champion.

For the second time, and in consecutive years, the Double Diamond club from the Onoway-Westlock area claimed the club herdmanship title. Second place went to Spruce Grove and third to Camrose.

The annual provincial show is sponsored by Alberta Treasury Branches and UFA, hosted by the Bashaw Agricultural Society and administered by Alberta Agriculture.

Contact:	*Henry Wiegman*	*Rob Smith*
	(403)422-4444	*(403)422-4444*

Weed control and conservation still priorities

Half a century ago when Alberta's first agricultural service boards (ASBs) were founded, their basic mandate was to develop local farm programs capable of controlling weeds and conserving soil.

Fifty years later, those two basic mandates remain. However, the individual projects are as diverse as Alberta's landscape from east to west and north to south. What's the same for all ASBs is the responsibility they have to carry out provincial legislation and regulations. For example, noxious weeds must be kept from spreading. Restricted weeds must be eradicated.

"The basic foundation of ASBs will probably remain intact – weed and pest control, soil and water management," predicts Greg Paranich, the County of Lamont's fieldman.

"A greater interaction with environmental issues and regulations – pesticides, water habitat, land use and wildlife – pertaining to agricultural will become more commonplace. Rural development and economics of agriculture-based communities also will become more important as we strive to sustain or enhance their survival," he adds.

Colleague Ron Jackson, fieldman at the County of Athabasca, agrees changes will come. "Undoubtedly, certain aspects of the job will change over the next few years, but I feel the foundation of agricultural service boards will always remain the fundamental role of providing a service to the agricultural industry that is not available through other sources."

Orest Litwin, County of Lacombe fieldman for the last 20 years, says weed control gets both the most time and resources in that county. This includes awareness, prevention and control on private land and public land such as roadsides.

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The Athabasca ASB also lists control and preventing the spread of certain noxious weeds – especially tansy, scentless chamomile, toadflax and Canada thistle – as one of its key priority areas.

It stresses awareness and co-operation with landowners to control and eradicate specific problems. Strategies include training, demonstration, cost-sharing projects and providing specialized equipment to better equip landowners to deal with weed problems. Backpack sprayers, estate sprayers and grass seeders are available for rent. As well the ASB has a roadside weed control program using methods ranging through mowing, hand picking and spot spraying.

The Athabasca weed control program is fairly typical of ASBs. However, specific problems and programs vary across the province.

In Alberta's southwest corner, summer means knapweed and blueweed to Al Jacklin, fieldman for the Municipal District (MD) of Pincher Creek. As a municipality along the Alberta-B.C. border, Pincher Creek and the neighboring Municipality of Crowsnest Pass are the first line of defense from restricted weeds brought into the province via the rail lines, on the wind, downstream of rivers and with highway traffic. Weed seed also makes its way to the area in hay from outside the region. That brings a unique ways of trying to prevent and control weeds. In the Waterton area, for example, decontaminating hunters' vehicles.

In southeastern irrigation areas, weed concerns are different because of irrigation says John Vanden Broeke, County of Lethbridge fieldman. In that county, intensified livestock operations have brought another weed challenge. New weed varieties arrive with the feed for the area's 150 feedlots.

A little farther north in the MD of Willow Creek the restricted weed scentless chamomile isn't common as it is in central Alberta. But even then, it's not easy to get rid of. Fieldman Kathy Sandy says the best control of small patches is pulling the weed out by hand. That's the same strategy for a newer weed threat, purple loosestrife.

"We're always on the lookout for weeds not common in our area," explains Vern Arnold, a fieldman for the past 35 years in the County of Forty Mile. He calls it a "search and destroy" campaign that has kept leafy spurge, toadflax and knapweed out of that county. A Canada thistle and sow thistle roadside program has lessened the problem to about 10 to 15 per cent of what it was in the 1960s.

Extension programs and specialized sprayers available for lease are among weed control work in the County of Barrhead. Marilyn Flock, fieldman for the last 18 years, says extension programs are increasing. The Barrhead ASB has given a high priority to one-day courses. In particular, county farmers have been involved in tansy control projects. The ASB has also purchased three portable boomless sprayers with cluster nozzles and 100 feet of hose. Farmers can borrow these sprayers to control weeds on rough land such as pasture and brush that isn't accessible with conventional equipment.

The County of Lamont has converted its spraying equipment to boomless nozzles with a coarse spray pattern and use drift control additives. Its main spray truck uses a computer injection system for precise and safe pesticides application and handling. "Increasing acreages of canola, pulses, special crops and alfalfa pose challenges in herbicide vegetation control to avoid potential crop damage," explains Paranich.

In the Peace, the Greenview ASB's primary program has been weed control says fieldman Normand Boulet. "Both an extensive inspection program and roadside and environment ditch weed control program have run for many years," he says. "Education of farmers and public relations have been long term goals of the program," he adds. The main weeds of concern have a familiar ring – scentless chamomile, toadflax, tansy, Canada and perennial sow thistle and ox-eye daisy.

While the advent of federal/provincial conservation programs in the mid-1980s increased the amount of conservation programming ASBs were able to do, conservation has been a basic element of ASB work since the boards' beginnings. Those beginnings range from the start of ASB history to much more recently.

Conservation has always been an active role in the MD of Willow Creek says fieldman Sandy. "The need was definitely there in the '80s and the dollars here in the '90s," she says. Farmers are getting conservation messages with the industry taking an active role in promoting conservation farming.

ASBs have been a conservation leader and partner. For some ASBs that's meant incorporating conservation into its mission. On January 1, 1994 Improvement District #16 become the M.D. of Greenview #16. Just before this official incorporation, the ASB underwent a visioning progress. The result was this mission statement: *The focus of the ASB is to advise and assist landowners and Council on innovative, environmentally responsible and economic sustainable agricultural policies and programs compatible with M.D. of Greenview No. 16 landowners' needs in a cost effective manner.*

The conservation mission covers a wide range of concerns and programs. In the southern Willowcreek flatlands soil drift in winter winds is a problem. Wind erosion is also a common problem in the County of Lethbridge, as is soil salinity. In Barrhead, peat soils can dry up and cause dust storms, too.

Shelterbelts and tree planting are common programs. In Barrhead, for example, the shelterbelt program includes fieldscale – half-mile or longer – and acreages. Saskatoons and other fruit bearing shrubs and trees have been used. The fruit feeds both human berry pickers and wildlife.

As in other municipalities, the Lethbridge ASB has worked with local Conservation 2000 clubs on conservation initiatives. The

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Canada/Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agreement (CAESA) has allowed the ASB to hire a conservation technician whose job includes going anywhere from local schools to trade fairs to promote conservation concepts.

"Farmers have responded well to the programs," says Vanden Broeke. Awareness is growing, and he adds, "Attitudes are changing, too."

"Farmers are ready for the information," agrees Tim Dietzler, MD of Rocky View fieldman. Dietzler says CAESA funds – and that of its predecessor agreements – have been well-spent and used effectively. "They've served farmers and served society well," he says.

Contact: *Bernie Yakimyshyn*
(403)427-2171

Note to editors and news directors: This article is from a complete package about the 50thanniversary of the ASB program. If you'd like a copy, please contact Bernie Yakimyshyn in Edmonton at (403)427-2171. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Two Alberta 4-Hers California bound

Cherilyn Matson of Sylvan Lake and Curtis Smith of Fawcett are California bound tomorrow (August 1).

The two long-time Alberta 4-H members will spend 10 days in California as part of an exchange sponsored by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC). CIBC hosted a send-off banquet in Calgary for the pair.

"Our delegates will be met by their host families in San Diego and stay with them until August 5," says Marguerite Stark, Alberta Agriculture provincial 4-H programs specialist.

Their next stop is the state 4-H leadership conference, Aug. 5 through 8, at the University of California in San Diego. "The conference's goals are to involve youth in addressing issues, enhancing feelings of self-worth and improving leadership skills," notes Stark.

The two Albertans spend another day with their host families before returning home.

Matson is an 11-year 4-H member. During that time she's completed a variety of 4-H project including light horse, young horse and steer. Smith has been involved with steer projects during his eight years of 4-H. He's also one of the 1995 northwest 4-H ambassadors.

Matson and Smith earned this exchange trip at the annual 4-H *Provincial Selections Program*. Trip awards are based on 4-H and community involvement plus interpersonal skills.

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Curtis Smith
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Agri-News briefs

Raymond safety centre receives first instalment from Coca Cola

The North American Farm and Environmental Safety Centre in Raymond has received a $2,500 instalment on a $10,000 1995 commitment from Coca Cola Bottling Ltd. The planned centre is a unique interpretive, training and education complex developed by the non-profit Raymond and District Futures Society with support from corporations, institutions and the federal and provincial governments. Two-thirds of the project funds will come through the provincial Community Tourism Action Plan. For more information, contact centre manager Val Boehme at (403)752-4585.

Cereal field day tour in Lacombe Aug. 3

Alberta Agriculture's field crop research farm in Lacombe will be open for a field day tour on the afternoon of August 3. The tour includes barley variety trails, winter and spring triticale, crop management studies and winter wheat. For more information, contact crop specialist Murray Hartman at Alberta Agriculture's Innisfail district office at (403)227-6565.

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Fuel and oil testing program ends

Alberta Agriculture's fuel and oil testing program will end on August 1. Established in 1982 as a joint venture between the department and the Alberta Research Council, the program helped Alberta farmers diagnose mechanical failures from suspected faulty fuel or oil. Fuel and oil samples could be tested free-of-charge at the council's oil and gasoline testing laboratory. Over 450 tests were completed since the program started. Recently submitted samples won't be affected by the program's end. Fuel and oil testing services are available at a cost. To inquire about or request sample testing, write the Oil and Gasoline Testing Laboratory, Alberta Research Council, P.O. Box 8330, Station F, 250 Karl Clark Road, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5X2, or call (403)450-5102.

Grainfest '95 Aug. 9-12

Winnipeg will host its fourth annual *Grainfest* Aug. 9 through 12. Grainfest is a celebration of the importance of grain and grain-related products and technologies. A kick-off harvest parade runs in downtown Winnipeg starting at 11:30 a.m. on Aug. 9. A grain industry exhibition, open house and agricultural tours run all four days. Special events on Aug. 10 include a pancake breakfast and a night of "wheat chaff and barleycorn" later the same day. A conference also runs the same time. *Sustainable Development on the Great Plains 1995* is Aug. 8 through 12. For more information about the conference, call (204)942-3011, ext. 273. For more information about Grainfest, contact the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce at (204)944-8484.

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AGRI-NEWS

August 7, 1995

Peas poised to break production record

While wide yield variability is expected, Prairie field pea production will likely break last year's record says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Current estimates put Prairie production at between 1.5 and 1.6 million tonnes," says Matthew Machielse of the market analysis and statistics branch.

While increased production can mean falling prices, so far that hasn't been the case he adds. "Traders have consistently matched rising production with increasing demand and that trend will likely continue in 1995-96."

Global market fundamentals remain very strong for all feed quality grains. Edible pea price premiums will be gauged by quality in the bin. In Alberta, current bids are around $5.10 per bushel for grade two or better. "This should offer strong support through the fall," he notes. "As well, current chickpea price strength will boost yellow edible bids for split pea shipment.

Unlike peas, lentil production is forecast to decline modestly. However, most laird lentil production areas have had very good growing conditions with only localized disease reports.

"Lower production expectations, both here and in most other exporting countries, are keeping bids strong," says Machielse. "Quality will again determine the upside price potential. Right now indicators are for an increase, the question is how much."

Canaryseed was the most active market in July. A 25 per cent acreage reduction and possible production difficulties has the market moving higher. South American demand has surfaced since Argentinean crops were smaller than expected.

"The strength of the recent rally appears to have influenced enough buyer interest to improve bid support level to between 14 and 16 cents per pound going into the fall," notes Machielse.

Contact: Matthew Machielse
(403)427-4011

Wheat markets remain strong, crop expectations vary

While the outlook is for a variable Canadian wheat crop, wheat markets continue to remain strong says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Wheat markets moved higher again during July," notes Al Dooley. "On July 21, September Minneapolis wheat futures closed at an impressive $5.02 per bushel, while October

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Winnipeg feed wheat futures closed just shy of $175 per tonne."

The global situation also remains supportive to prices he adds. World wheat production estimates are down and 1995-96 ending stocks are expected to be 20 million tonnes below the five-year average of 127 million tonnes.

In Western Canada, the 1995 wheat crop appears variable. Some production areas are in very good shape and others very poor. "I expect yields to come out at about average," says Dooley.

"An early frost would play havoc with crop quality. A large proportion of feed quality material in the harvest would affect local feed wheat prices negatively," he notes. "But, given the tight world situation there should still be a home for this product in international markets at fairly attractive prices."

As with wheat, feedgrain crops are extremely variable as growing conditions range from near ideal to poor. Sometimes within a fairly small area. As well, feedgrain markets were stronger during July.

"By contrast, the oilseed market had wild days in July," says Dooley. "The tremendous uncertainty that exists in other segments of the grains industry is also a factor in the oilseeds complex.

"Late seeding of the U.S. soybean crop, variable crop conditions in Western Canada, concerns about a delayed monsoon in India and very active speculation to weather and weather forecasts all acted to keep oilseed and product markets on edge," he adds.

Dooley also notes given the tight grain markets, product substitution and general uncertainties about the 1995 crop, it's becoming less and less likely canola prices will fall substantially from current levels. "However, the overall global balance of supplies and usage in the vegetable oil and seed markets are much better than for some of the other commodities. Some weakness should be a surprise if northern hemisphere crops come in as currently expected."

Contact: Al Dooley
(403)427-5387

July cattle markets steady

Both fed and feeder cattle markets experienced steady trading during July says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"In the fed cattle market, steady prices were a stark comparison to the volatility of May and June. It's also a good indication we are looking at the lows of the summer season already," says Doug Walkey.

Alberta Direct Sale (ADS) steers traded in a narrow range between $78 and $81/cwt. live or $137 to $140/cwt. on the rail. Slaughter cow trade has been rock solid at $98 to $100/cwt. live.

"There were days when sales exceeded the packer's ability to buy, but then the Americans stepped in and bought. Basically, business has been steady," notes Walkey.

In Alberta's feeder market, 600 to 700 lb. feeders moved in the $92 to $110/cwt. price range, while to 700 to 800 lb. steers ranged between $88 and $105/cwt. "The wide price ranges reflect both the variable quality and scanty supplies on offer at this time of year," he says.

Walkey expects feeder prices to remain steady for the short term, into mid-August. "As fed cattle prices strengthen, both on current demand and seasonal patterns, feeder cattle prices should strengthen along with them," he adds.

During July a stronger Canadian dollar did put some pressure on Alberta's fed cattle prices. "Moving up two cents from 72 to 74 cents may sound fairly trivial, but it translates into nearly $2/cwt. decrease in fed cattle prices. Small numbers can have big impacts," says Walkey.

For example, Canadian slaughter cattle exports for the week ending July 8, 1995 totally just over 8,400 head. A month earlier, 21,240 head were exported during the week of June 3. "Cattle markets are clearly driven by the gradient of money," notes Walkey.

Contact: Doug Walkey
(403)427-4011

Bluegrass smoke on horizon

Within the next few days Kentucky Bluegrass seed producers will be burning their stubble.

There are only a few thousand acres of bluegrass in Alberta, mostly in the south. Chances are, most people won't even see the early to mid-August smoke from burning fields. However, bluegrass producers, together with government, are implementing measures that ensure public safety.

Fire is a normal management practice following harvest. But where there's fire, there's smoke. Smoke crossing a highway is the primary public safety concern.

Last winter a group of seed producers and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development began developing extension material to assist farmers with their field burning.

"The producers wanted to develop industry guidelines that would keep burning a responsible crop management tool," says Mike Pearson of the department's policy secretariat.

"Public safety was their number one goal. However, they also wanted to reduce the smoke nuisance, and for example, they imposed a no-nighttime burning policy on their industry," he adds. Nighttime inversions cause smoke to hug the ground and make it very uncomfortable for nearby residents.

Ken Miller, a bluegrass seed producer at Milk River, was on the committee that developed a safe burning practices

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handbook. "The handbook tells farmers how to have a safe and successful burn. Special attention is given to notifying the municipality, fire department, neighbours, and where necessary, the highway and airport authority. The producers I have talked to are eager to comply with these conditions," says Miller.

In Alberta, there haven't been accidents associated with past bluegrass field burns. The safest weather conditions to burn also happen to be the best conditions to get a complete removal of crop aftermath.

Burning removes stubble and crop aftermath that inhibits new tiller formation. If late summer sunlight and heat can't penetrate to ground level, yields can be reduced by up to 50 per cent in the following year.

Besides opening up the canopy, fire also controls most Kentucky Bluegrass pests. "Fire reduces the need for most fungicides, insecticides and herbicides," says Henry Najda, a research agronomist at the Brooks Crops Diversification Centre. Since healthy roots remain in the soil and the crop quickly regrows, soil erosion isn't a concern as it is with burning grain stubble. Bluegrass helps build the soil and can be an important part of a crop rotation.

Contact:	*Mike Pearson* *(403)427-5359*	*Ken Miller* *(403)674-2127*
	Henry Najda *(403)362-3391*	

Pine Lake cleanup co-operation works

Farmers, cottagers and RV camp owners at Pine Lake are showing they can work together to clean up a lake.

They've also found their cleanup can be fun and educational. Part of that fun is a cleanup day. The second annual version is Aug. 19 (See related story).

Things weren't that positive six years ago at the attractive recreation lake 20 miles southeast of Red Deer. Residents were concerned algae blooms were getting worse, and they wanted to know why.

Alberta Environmental Protection was called in to do a detailed lake and watershed water quality study to find out where the nutrients feeding the algae blooms were coming from.

As well, area MLA Gary Severtson organized a local committee to guide the Pine Lake research. The local advisory committee, made up of cottagers, R.V. camp owners and farmers has grown into the Pine Lake Restoration Society.

The society organizes educational seminars with key groups in the watershed. It produces a newsletter about monitoring and cleanup activities. It directs cleanup activities and develops water quality demonstrations with farmers. The society also does its own fund-raising.

Russ Horvey, Alberta Agriculture regional soil conservation co-ordinator, works closely with the Pine Lake Restoration Society to develop their farm water quality demonstrations. He says the Society's strong co-operative leadership makes project development easy.

"The farmers in the society do the education, make the contacts, convince their neighbours to make changes. They care about the lake. And, they also care about agriculture's image of doing what is right quickly," says Horvey.

David Trew, head of Alberta Environmental Protection's water quality section, calls the Pine Lake Restoration Society an important precedent for lake water quality management in Alberta.

"The Pine Lake Society has allowed us to develop the public involvement role in local water resources management. When lakes start to go bad, the tendency is to look for culprits, regardless of what the real problems are. The Restoration Society has stuck to some simple but important rules," says Trew.

The first of these rules is that lake deterioration is a local problem and local people must take the responsibility to lead the solutions. Outside agencies can help with the monitoring, research and ideas for solutions. But they can't motivate, educate and ensure that change happens as well as local leadership can.

Second, to use science and not suspicion as the way to identify problem areas. In 1992, 30 per cent of the phosphorus feeding the algae blooms on Pine Lake came from surface runoff, primarily manure runoff at snowmelt from livestock wintering sites next to creeks. However, 60 per cent of the phosphorus came from the lake's bottom sediments.

"While farmers needed to change the way they wintered livestock to protect the lake, Pine Lake residents also recognized in-lake treatments were needed, too," says Neil MacAlpine, an Alberta Agriculture farm water management engineer. MacAlpine was a member of the society's advisory group.

The third rule is to work as neighbours, not as adversaries. In other words, give people whose operations are a problem a real chance to make changes. Working with their ideas on preventing their pollution is more effective than demanding cleanup.

Finally, local leadership must include fair-minded individuals from key sectors – cottagers, recreation industry and farmers – who are more interested in finding solutions than in finding fault.

Contact:	*Neil MacAlpine* *(403)422-4385*	*Russel Horvey* *(403)340-5335*

Pine Lake cleanup day Aug. 19

The Pine Lake Restoration Society is holding its second annual Clean Lake day on Saturday, August 19.

Clean Lake Day is the society's key fund raising activity to do projects with farmers, cottagers and in the lake itself.

"Clean Lake Day is the flagship of our work at Pine Lake. It focuses a year's hard work by the Society," says Bill Wearmouth, Pine Lake Restoration Society president.

"For farmers, cottagers and lake users in other parts of Alberta who want to learn how they can improve their lakes and rivers, Clean Lake Day at Pine Lake is the opportunity to see real change at work. We intend to get Pine Lake back to the way it was in 1900 by the year 2000. We're serious enough about that goal to have fun at Clean Lake Day," he adds.

Activities start on Aug. 18 with a Friday night bingo. The next day starts early at 8 a.m. at Pine Lake's Hub Centre. Saturday is jam-packed with a pancake breakfast, slo-pitch tournament, fishing derby, golf tournament, road races, lake poker, horseshoe tournament and wraps up with an evening barbecue spiked with cowboy poetry.

For more information about Clean Lake Day, contact Wearmouth at (403)252-5267.

Contact: *Russ Horvey* *(403)340-5335*
Bill Wearmouth *(403)252-5267*

International poultry meeting in Edmonton

The University of Alberta will host the largest meeting of poultry researchers ever held in Alberta starting on August 12.

The 84th annual meeting of the Poultry Science Association (PSA) is expected to attract over 1,000 researchers and poultry/feed industry professionals from across Canada and the U.S. as well as PSA members from 60 other countries around the world. The meeting runs August 12 through 18.

"Presentations are mostly technical and cover a variety of topics in nutrition, genetics, physiology, environment/management, extension/instruction, immunology, pathology and processing/products," notes Martin Zuidhof, an Alberta Agriculture poultry specialist and a member of the local organizing committee.

A symposium on poultry welfare is one of two pre-conference events planned. The first *North American Symposium on Poultry Welfare* is August 12 and 13. The keynote address, poultry welfare – airing skeletons and seeing the other side, is by Australian Linda Murphy. Sessions include an overview of welfare; healthy and husbandry; catching, transport and slaughter; and, improved cage and equipment design.

The other pre-conference symposium covers current advances in avian embryology and incubation. It runs August 13 and 14. The keynote topic is the importance of avian models of development.

For more information about the PSA conference, contact Bob Hardin at the University of Alberta at (403)492-7463 or fax (403)492-9130.

Contact: *Martin Zuidhof*
(403)427-5319

Garden of success with hort congress keynote speaker

Experts told Brian and Faye Minter they couldn't make their Chilliwack garden a tourism success. This November Brian Minter will tell delegates at the annual *Alberta Horticultural Congress* how Minter Gardens attracted over 150,000 visitors in 1994.

Minter is the keynote speaker at the Nov. 2 through 4 congress at the Mayfield Inn in Edmonton. He'll describe how Minter Gardens has become a destination business. This includes how to attract people.The Minters say they offer three things people want when they go to an attraction – washrooms, food and the attraction.

Minter Gardens started as a 27-acre flower garden 15 years ago. Now it boasts 11 theme gardens, seasonal highlights, a cafeteria and dining/banquet room, and gift shop. The Minters are now applying their marketing and other business skills garnered in their garden business to two year-round retail garden centres.

"We're extremely pleased to have Brian Minter at our conference," says Bill McFarlane, the congress chair. "Our members will glean a lot of information from the Minters' experience."

The congress offers education seminars for professional, commercial and beginning horticulturists. As well, there's the *Prairie West Horticultural Trade Show*, co-sponsored by the congress and the Landscape Alberta Nursery Trades Association (LANTA).

Congress registration forms will be available from Alberta Agriculture district offices, the Crop Diversification Centre, North in Edmonton and the Crop Diversification Centre, South in Brooks.

For more information about the congress, contact Simone Demers Collins at (403)422-1789. For more information about the trade show, contact Dianne Hore at (403)489-1991.

Contact: *Simone Demers Collins*
(403)422-1789

Conservation campers celebrate 30th anniversary

An environment case study of the Rafter 4-H Ranch was their present when campers arrived at the 30th anniversary Alberta 4-H Conservation Camp.

Delegates from Manitoba and Montana joined over 30 Alberta 4-Hers to discuss issues affecting the environment through examining who should buy the fictional ranch. Prospective buyers included ranchers, corporate farmers, investors, fish and game enthusiasts, foresters, environmentalists and recreation developers.

Campers also learned by exploring the diverse ecosystem at the Alberta 4-H Centre on Battle Lake. The centre is 60 km west of Wetaskiwin.

Throughout the week, camp participants prepared an operation and development plan for their Rafter 4-H Ranch using the "five is one" theme looking at different aspects of the environment. A resource team of specialists provided practical knowledge about the five topics – soils, water, fish and wildlife, range and forestry management.

The specialists came from three provincial departments – municipal affairs, environmental protection and agriculture – as well as camp sponsors Alberta Power and TransAlta Utilities.

At the end of the week campers participated in a mock development hearing judged by the field experts. "After five days, the campers are aware of the complexity of making real-life environmental decisions," says camp director Carol Sullivan, provincial 4-H personal development specialist.

"During the role-playing they applied the information they learned. Then we encouraged them to take the conservation message into their local clubs and communities," she adds.

Since 1975, the camper who best spreads the conservation message after attending the camp receives the Grant MacEwan Conservation Award. Kim Denis of Lacombe was presented with the 1995 award during the camp.

Contact: Carol Sullivan
(403)427-2541

All clubs represented at provincial 4-H dairy show

Two-thirds of Alberta's 4-H dairy members representing all seven of the province's clubs took part at the 49th annual edition of the provincial 4-H dairy show.

"A total of 55 delegates participated in judging, clipping, showmanship and conformation classes," notes Henry Wiegman, Alberta Agriculture provincial 4-H agriculture specialist.

Junior member Jessica Simanton, 12, of the Lacombe Club made several trips to the winners' circle. She earned top spot in both junior judging and clipping competitions. As well, her yearling was supreme show champion. Along the way Simanton also claimed the intermediate calf and yearling class titles.

The supreme reserve show champion also came from the yearling class. At the halter was another multiple show winner, Linsey Chalack of the Mountain View Club. As well, she was top senior, overall show judge and a member of the winning judging team and the top show ring judging team. The latter are titles she also earned at the 1994 show.

The top judging team, all from the Mountain View Club, finished one, two, three in the senior judging competition. They were Chalack, Julene Copithorne and Dereck Van Sickle. Chalack teamed with Chad Hofstra of the Rollyview Club in the show ring competition.

Van Sickle claimed both the senior and overall showmanship titles. Len Congdon of the Bashaw Club did the same in the clipping competition. Caden Chalack was crowned top intermediate showman, reserve overall showman and top intermediate judge.

Intermediate clipping winner was Christian Lindred-Jensen of the Mountain View Club. Fellow club member Amanda Taylor won the junior showmanship category. Intermediate member Maureen Trautman of Bashaw claimed the top overall judging reasons competition.

Conformation class winners included Daniel Hofstra of Rollyview for calf, Matt Hofstra for summer yearling and Van Sickle for junior yearling.

The Cherhill area Twilite Club won the club herdsmanship competition in '95 after finishing in the runner-up spot last year. This year's runner-up was the Rollyview Club. Lacombe claimed the club herd title with Bashaw in the reserve position.

The provincial 4-H dairy show is held in conjunction with the Red Deer Westerner during *Westerner Days*.

Contact: Henry Wiegman
(403)422-4444

Agri-News briefs

July hog prices high

Alberta hog prices remained strong through July, topping $1.70/kg dressed on some days. "This is the peak of the seasonal trend and prices have remained strong in spite of a strengthening Canadian dollar," notes Doug Walkey, an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. However, summer highs have probably been reached. "The trend being set by the futures market is for declining prices into fall," he adds. Walkey forecasts average prices to drop to $1.42/kg (dressed) in September and $1.38 in October. This is well above 1994 levels of $1.09 and $1.01 respectively. For more information, contact Walkey in Edmonton at (403)427-4011. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Modest declines in lamb market

A tight supply is one of the factors working in favor of Alberta lamb producers says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. Another is the time lag before the majority of the U.S. lamb crop is marketed. As well, Canadian imports of mutton and lamb in the first half of 1995 decreased by 16 per cent compared to last year. "Providing there isn't significant change in the exchange rate, I expect declines in lamb prices to be modest," says Don Hansen. "Look for Alberta slaughter lambs to trade in the $87.50 to $92.50/cwt. range this fall," he adds. For more information, contact Hansen in Edmonton at (403)427-4011. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Sustainable development conference starts tomorrow in Winnipeg

A three-day conference about sustainable development on the Great Plains starts tomorrow (Aug. 8) in Winnipeg. The conference will integrate three basic components of sustainable development – environment, society and economy. Presentations, workshops and case studies will build on the recently released report *Sustainable Development for the Great Plains: Policy Analysis*. The report was done by the International Institute for Sustainable Development. The conference is being held in conjunction with the Winnipeg International Grainfest '95. For more information about the conference contact Garry Enns in Winnipeg at (204)944-8484.

Aug. 15 last chance in barley yield competition

August 15 is the deadline for entering the Alberta Barley Commission's 1995 barley competition. Prices will be awarded in 2-row, 6-row and hulless categories. Everyone who enters receives a *Barley!* hat. Winning entries will be selected according to the percentage the entry's yield exceeds the five-year average yield for all barley grown in the competitor's census division. Entry forms are available from elevator managers, CIBA or DowElanco representatives, Alberta Agriculture crop specialists or from the commission by calling 1-800-265-9111.

Air trip for snap happy farm winner

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) is offering two return airline tickets to Canadian destinations in a photo contest celebrating the CFA's 60th anniversary. The contest will run from October 2, 1995 through Jan. 8, 1996. There's a youth division for entrants under 16 years of age as of Jan. 8, 1996, and an adult division for anyone over 16 as of that date. Entrants should submit a group of four photographs depicting the important contribution agriculture makes to society in food production, sustainable farming, or farm family or community. Entrants can submit photos for one, two or all categories. The only criteria for entering is that the participant, or a member of their immediate family has agriculture as their primary occupation and the series of four photographs be copyright free. Prizes will be awarded at the CFA's 60th annual meeting in Ottawa March 2 through 5, 1996. A contest pamphlet with rules and an entry form is available by calling the CFA office in Ottawa at (613)236-3633.

Coming agricultural events notice

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in **fall or winter of 1995, or in 1996**? Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the **name, city or town, and phone number** of a **contact person** for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization). **Please include your telephone number**:

Please return this form by **August 24, 1995** *to:*

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AGRI-NEWS
August 14, 1995

CANADIANA

OCT 3 1995

2,000 more caring messages in the mail to farmers

Dear Uncle Robert: Be safe with tractors. There's only one of you. I want you to know I care. Love Amanda

Eleven-year-old Amanda Wagner's farm safety message to her uncle is typical of the nearly 2,000 postcards designed by rural Alberta students for their favorite farmers.

Wagner was also one of 160 prize winners in the *I Care Two Pocket Postcard* sponsored by Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program, John Deere and the Alberta Womens' Institutes (AWI).

All winners will receive their prizes on Wednesday, August 23 at one of 32 John Deere dealerships. [List of dealerships and winners follows.]

The postcard campaign was modelled on a similar successful campaign in 1994. The *I Care Two* campaign is the fifth program where the three partners have combined to make both children and farmers more aware of farm safety.

This year nearly 2,000 rural students from kindergarten through grade six designed and wrote postcards for their favorite farmer. Often those farmers were their parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts, but also included siblings and friends.

Their postcards will be mailed to those farmers just before harvest begins later this month. A vast majority of the cards were addressed to Alberta farmers, however a few will go east to Saskatchewan and Ontario and even south to Montana.

The harvest timing is a key to the campaign notes Jacqueline Galloway, Alberta Agriculture farm safety consultant. Two-thirds of Alberta's 1994 farm fatalities – 10 out of 15 – occurred between August and November.

"We hope the farmers who receive these postcards will carry them in their shirt pocket, close to their heart, as a constant reminder to keep safe during harvest," she says.

"Once again, we're delighted with the response to this farm safety campaign," says Bonnie Hayden, manager of marketing communications for John Deere Limited. "These postcards generate a lot of community awareness beyond the young artists and the farmer recipients. We're excited about what all of these campaigns have done to promote the importance of farm safety across the province."

John Deere sponsors prizes for the best of the postcards. First through fourth prizes are awarded regionally. First prize winners will receive a deluxe John Deere play farm set. Second

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

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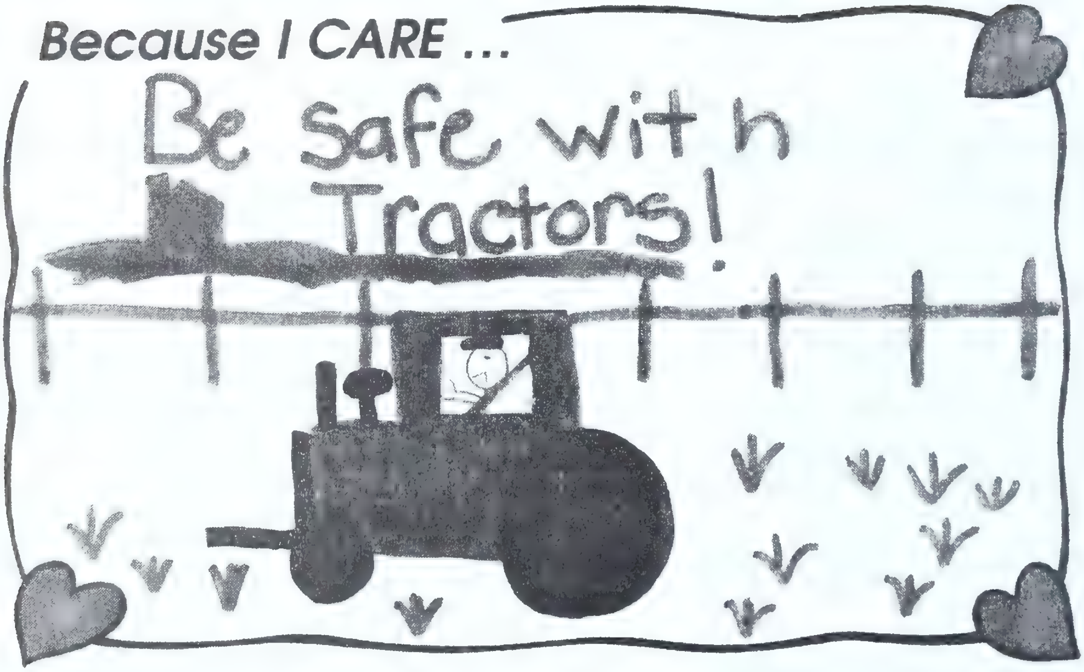
prize is a farm country play ranch set and third a remote controlled John Deere tractor. Fourth prizes are campaign *I Care* T-shirts.

Contact: *Nadine Mitchell* *(403)427-2171*
Bonnie Hayden *(905)945-7314*


Because I CARE ...
Be safe with Tractors!

Presentation Schedule

I Care II postcard campaign winners

Athabasca, Deer Farm Power Ltd.
Blaze Ashmead, Colinton, (403)675-7048, Fourth
Laura Fluet, Athabasca, (403)675-3569, Fourth
Willy Hatch, Wandering River, (403)771-2126, Fourth
Melanie Menard, Plamondon, (403)798-3317, Second
George Sawchuk, Newbrook, (403)576-2201, , Fourth
Lindy Snydmiller, Breynat, (403)771-2246, , Third

Barrhead, Deerline Sales Ltd.
Rita Lymspen, Barrhead, (403)3674-2888, Third
Dennis Meadowview, Barrhead, (403)4674-5279, Fourth
Brent Reschke, Barrhead, (403)674-2699, Second

Burdett, Green Power Ltd.
Taylor Campbell, Burdett, (403)833-3818, Second
Mishia Mitchell, Bow Island, (403)545-6412, Fourth
Evelyn Torsius, Grassy Lake, (403)655-2430, Fourth

Calgary, Agro Equipment Ltd.
Carly Cole, Strathmore, (403)934-3381, Fourth
Jordan Herle, Carstairs, (403)337-3692, Fourth
Angie Lineham, Cartairs, (403)337-3996, Third
Katelin MacDonald, Strathmore, (403)934-4949, Fourth
Chad Seitz, Strathmore, (403)934-5761, First
Gary Thurston, Strathmore, 934-3432, Second

Camrose, Crawford & Company Ltd
Sarah Cartier, Camrose, (403)679-4168, Fourth
Sarah Gibbard, Camrose, (403)672-0184, Fourth
Sarah Merritt, Camrose, (403)679-2238, Fourth
Kaylee Pilger, Ohaton, (403)672-4394, Fourth
Markus Pohl, Bittern Lake, (403)679-0956, Fourth
Bronwyn Schmidt, Kingman, (403)662-2647, Fourth
Tyrone Wnuk, Camrose, (403)672-1529, Fourth

Coronation, Stettler Farm Equipment Ltd.
Jay Raher, Castor, (403)882-4081, Fourth
Desiree Bargholz, Brownfield, (403)578-2486, Fourth
Jenna Beier, Kirriemuir, (403)552-2206, Fourth
Deanna Button, Castor, (403)882-2954, Second
Ryan Dunnett, Coronation, (403)578-3102, Fourth
Kelsey Hedley, Consort, (403)577-3046, Fourth
Paul Hirsekorn, Compeer, (403)552-2178, Third
Carmen Holloway, Castor, (403)882-3416, Fourth
Tyler Hussey, Castor, (403)882-2752, Fourth
Rhianne Kearney, Castor, (403)882-2728, Fourth
Angela Mouly, Altario, (403)552-2400, Fourth
Dallas Todd, Coronation, (403)578-3251, Fourth
Nicole Whalen, Veteran, (403)575-2215, Third

Cont'd on page 3

Drumheller, Deer Valley Implements Ltd.
Palmer Altin, Byemoor, (403)364-2150, Fourth
Kylee Hancock, EastDrumheller, (403)823-8043, Fourth
Micheal Kendrick, EastDrumheller, (403)823-4734, Second
Nicky Marcinowski,Rosedale, (403)823-6496, Second
Jenna Wynia, Morrin, (403)772-2217, Fourth

Edmonton, Martin Farm Equipment Ltd.
Jennifer Black, Sherwood Park, (403)464-7904, Third
Jamie Brochu, Riviere Qui Barre, (403)939-4438, Fourth
Matthew Gadoury, Morinville, (403)939-5108, Fourth
Amanda Germann, Spruce Grove, (403)962-8367, Fourth
Kimberley Jordan, Spruce Grove, (403)962-8335, Fourth
Audrey Lema, St. Albert, (403)459-3365, Fourth
Kevin McMillan, Sherwood Park, (403)417-0328, Fourth
Leah Alysse Parker, St. Albert, (403)973-6386, Third
Scott Rankin, Calahoo, (403)460-3030, Fourth
Derek Schmidt, Morinville, (403)939-4645, Fourth

Fairview, Five Star Equipment
Matthew Philips, Manning, (403)836-3579, Fourth
Reuban Schamehorn, Manning, (403)836-2204, Fourth
Jessica Stevenson, Bear Canyon, (403)595-3620, First
Stephanie Tunte, Grimshaw, (403)971-2124, Fourth

Falher, Dave Ross Equipment Ltd.
Andre Blanchette, Girouxville, (403)323-4598, Second
Lori Chalifoux, Falher, (403)837-2676, Third
Sara Kuric, McLennon, (403)324-3503, Fourth
Lindsay Littman, Eaglesham, (403)694-2023, Fourth
Shawn Loiseau, Falher, (403)837-2578, Second
Sara Maisonneuve, Falher, (403)837-2759, Third

Foremost, Calhoun Sales and Service Ltd.
Cody Dirk, Foremost, (403)867-3754, Fourth

Fort Saskatchewan, Deerland Farm Equipment
Aaron Barnhardt, Smoky Lake, (403)656-2228, Fourth
Eric Blok, Waskatenau, (403)398-2621, Fourth
Lanie Eigner, Opal, (403)398-2494, Fourth
Kelsa Ewashko, Egremont, (403)398-2496, Fourth
Frankie Feniak, Warspite, (403)283-2306, Fourth
B. J. Gurba, Waskatenau, (403)358-2417, Second
Kristen Kuzik, Radway, (403)736-2142, Fourth
Ashley Pahl, Redwater, (403)942-2155, Fourth
Todd Smith, Bon Accord, (403)942-3875, Fourth

Grande Prairie, Peace Farm Power
Bonnie Seguin, Hythe, (403)356-2603, Third
Stacey Patterson, Bezanson, (403)532-6415, Third
Brock Buhler, La Glace, (403)568-4234, Fourth
Amanda Hussey, Grovedale, (403)538-9265, Fourth
Riley Mayer, Wembley, (403)354-2244, Second
Stefan Meyer, Woking, (403)774-2246, Second
Stevie Patterson, Valhalla Centre, (403)356-2280, Fourth
Jordy Sanregret, Beaverlodge, (403)356-2614, Fourth
Devin Stark, Bezanson, (403)532-6125, First
Matthew Thorson, Sexsmith, (403)569-3263, Fourth
Leif Tveter, La Glace, (403)568-4164, Fourth
Olav Wold, Sexsmith, (403)568-4106, Fourth

Hanna, Hanna Farm Equipment
Brianne Bancroft, Delia, (403)364-3535, Second
Lisa Hoover, Delia, (403)364-2165, Fourth
Mitchell Maetche, Craigmyle, (403)665-2448, Second

High Prairie, Peyre Farm Equipment
Ricki Cox, High Prairie, (403)523-5234, Fourth
Erik McNutt, High Prairie, (403)523-5280, Fourth

Lethbridge, McKay Bros. Farm Implements Ltd.
Curtis Jakober, Picture Butte, (403)732-4660, Fourth

Mayerthorpe, Greenland Equipment Ltd.
Amanda Wagner, Sangudo, (403)785-2458, Fourth

Medicine Hat, Southland Equipment Ltd.
Brandi Coslovich, Irvine, (403)834-2166, Fourth
Jordan McGarry, Medicine Hat, (403)527-7402, Third

Olds, Greenline Equipment Sales Ltd.
Ken Fisher, Didsbury, (403)337-2228, Fourth
Jason Fox, Carstairs, (403)337-2264, First
Caitlin Jaycok, Sundre, (403)638-2787, First
Jay Keating, Didsbury, (403)335-4149, Fourth
Sarah Kemmere, Didsbury, (403)335-9432, Third
Jamie-Lee Ogle, Sundre, (403)638-3742, Third
Jillian Rothert, Didsbury, (403)335-9105, Fourth
Lee Stevens, Didsbury, (403)335-3974, Fourth
Sam Trottier, Sundre, (403)638-3016, First
Jeff Whitford, Bowden, (403)224-3695, Third

Pincher Creek, Rancher's Supply Limited
Traci Threesuns, Siksika, (403)734-3606, Fourth

Red Deer, Deermart Equipment Sales Ltd.
Devin Dreeshen, Innisfail, (403)773-2334, Fourth
Tom Brodie, Penhold, (403)886-4664, Fourth
Eli Budwill, Innisfail, (403)227-4286, Second
Landon Charmicheal, Lacombe, (403)885-2573, Fourth
Janelle Loughlin, Innisfail, (403)227-1591, Fourth
Josh MacKinnon, Innisfail, (403)227-5762, Fourth
Amanda Motley, Innisfail, (403)227-6795, Third
Michelle Roach, Clive, (403)784-2279, Fourth

Spirit River, Dave Ross Equipment
Ken Brown, Spirit River, (403)864-4037, Fourth
Bradley Buchinski, Rycroft, (403)765-3091, Fourth
Samantha Larigan, Rycroft, (403)774-2063, Fourth
Christine McDonald, Grimshaw, (403)332-1003, Third
Theresa Yuha, Spriti River, (403)351-2409, Second

Stettler, Stettler Farm Equipment Ltd.
Chance Clark, Stettler, (403)742-6262, First
Nichole Glover, Stettler, (403)742-3871, Fourth
Cody Innocent, Stettler, (403)742-0268, Fourth
Rose Ireland, Stettler, (403)742-0501, Fourth
Ben Klaus, Stettler, (403)742-4666, Second
Shawn Sutton, Donalda, (403)883-2463, Fourth

St. Paul, Agland
Tyler Fletcher, Smoky Lake, (403)383-3886, First

Cont'd on page 4

Taber, Green Power Ltd.
Ashley Gregus, Taber, (403)223-2487, Third
Blaine Varga, Taber, (403)223-4027, Fourth

Trochu, Guard's Implements Ltd.
Tim Aeyelts, Elnora, (403)773-2245, Fourth
Justin Fyn, Linden, Fourth
Christine Howe, Swalwell, Fourth
Nicole King, Trochu, (403)442-2264, Fourth
Amanda Main, Three Hills, (403)443-7862, Fourth
Kyle Niemi, Trochu, (403)442-4238, Fourth
Chelsea Price, Swalwell, (403)546-2537, Third
Ryan Wens, Linden, (403)546-2663, Second

Vegreville, Blue Sky's Country Sales Ltd.
Matthew Hrudey, Mundare, (403)764-2115, Third
Craig Newman, Vegreville, (403)688-2084, Second
Sarah Pichoch, Lavoy, (403)658-2502, Second
Craig Woloshyn, Vegreville, (403)658-2384, Third

Vermilion, Agland
Kerri Dmytriw, Innisfree, (403)592-2222, Fourth
Kailey Samuelson, Vermilion, (403)853-4933, First

Vulcan, Deer Country Equipment Ltd.
Destiny, Vulcan, (403)485-6307, Fourth
Samantha Schapansky, Champion, (403)897-2383, Fourth

Warburg, Martin Farm Equipment
Heather VandeVoorde, Drayton Valley, (403)542-3830, Second

Westlock, Deerline Sales
Tyler Arthur, Flatbush, (403)681-2403, Fourth
Darlene Blanchette, Vimy, (403)961-2243, First
Ryan Boychuk, Thorhild, (403)398-2508, Fourth
Deanna Brand, Westlock, (403)349-4063, Fourth
Renee DeWindt, Thorhild, (403)398-2377, Second
Cassie Dirks, Jarvie, (403)954-2223, Third
Duncan Jamieson, Clyde, (403)348-5805, Fourth
Ben Kaufman, Westlock, (403)348-5671, Fourth
Brady Kirk, Thorhild, (403)398-3934, Second
Cassey Laughy, Flatbush, (403)681-3775, Third
Amanda Marles, Vimy, (403)961-2084, Third
Kevin Maul, Fawcett, (403)954-3876, Second
Jordan Prefontaine, Legal, (403)961-2403, First
Graham Swan, Clyde, 348-5840, First
Brittany Tuining, Dapp, (403)954-3790, Fourth
Steffen VanGogh, Busby, (403)939-3506, Fourth

Pork producers vote on share allocation

Alberta pork producers voted in favor of allocating nearly three million Fletcher's Fine Foods shares to eligible extra-levy producers.

Approximately 42 per cent of eligible producers voted. Some 962 producers voted in favor of the shares being allocated to extra-levy producers with 888 favoring eligible 1994 producers. Voting was July 31.

The plebiscite resulted from a Marketing of Agricultural Products Act appeal tribunal directive rescinding a decision by Alberta Pork Producers Development Corporation directors to issue the disputed shares to 1994 producers.

Eligible extra-levy producers have been issued, or have notice of issuance, to seven million Fletcher's shares. Fletcher's is a major Alberta hog processor. The 2,923,977 shares are the result of a profitable 1994 fiscal year at Fletcher's.

"I was pleased with the way Alberta pork producers conducted themselves," says returning officer Cliff Downey. "A number of producers had called ahead for information or came to the July meetings, so the plebiscite, from my perspective, went very smoothly."

For more information, contact Brian Rhiness, acting general manager, or Diane Aves, manager of corporate affairs, Agricultural Products Marketing Council in Edmonton at (403)427-2164.

Contact:	*Brian Rhiness* *(403)427-2164*	*Diane Aves* *(403)427-2164*

Green certificate goes east

In 10 days (Aug. 24) the first Saskatchewan *Green Certificate* trainees will be tested on the skills they've acquired in the practical, hands-on agricultural apprenticeship program.

The Saskatchewan *Green Certificate* pilot project began in May and will run to May 1996. It's based on the Alberta program that's operated for over 20 years.

British Columbia was the first province to try the proven method of farm training when a group of Vancouver Island dairy farmers started a pilot project in March. The Saskatchewan pilot is broader with trainees in dairy, feedlot, cow/calf and field crop training.

"This is a way for other jurisdictions to establish their own training program without re-inventing the wheel," says Alberta Agriculture's Robert Hornbrook, a Green certificate program supervisor. Hornbrook has had on-going advisory roles with both pilot projects.

Alberta has been marketing *Green Certificate* outside the province. "Practical, hands-on training is the *Green Certificate* advantage. The on-the-job training is cost-effective. As well, the program also teachs farmers how to be trainers, an increasingly important management skill," he adds.

Gina Sebastian-Hansen, acting co-ordinator of the Saskatchewan pilot project, says the project was started because of a growing demand for skilled labor in the farming industry. "Research has shown that training aimed at improving the skills and knowledge of farm employees can

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increase production. Such training has an effect on employees' self esteem and performance as well," she adds.

A Saskatchewan MLA was instrumental in getting the pilot project off the ground. Walter Jess, Redberry MLA and himself a farmer, envisioned an agricultural apprenticeship program managed by farmers, with standards set, training supervised and testing done by farmers.

He discovered, through his son who was attending an agricultural college in Alberta, that his idea had been put to work in the neighboring province. Jess approached the Saskatchewan agriculture minister who asked him to take on the project.

Now more and more farmers and potential *Green Certificate* trainees are expressing interest in the program says Sebastian-Hansen. That interest has grown as more people are exposed to the concept. Calls have come after she's been interviewed about the pilot project on radio and television.

When the pilot ends in 1996, it will be reviewed with the industry to see if sufficient interest exists for the program to continue and to review course content.

Contact: Robert Hornbrook (403)427-2171

Gina Sebastian-Hansen (306)787-2045

Alberta-Mexico Green Certificate project wrapped up

Five Mexican agriculture students recently bid Alberta good-bye after working and training on farms here for 20 weeks.

They are the first participants in a Canada/Mexico Green Certificate Program. All are senior students at the Instituto Technologico y d Estudios Superiorsies de Monterrey. Like other Green Certificate trainees, they worked and trained on the farm and then obtained a proficiency certificate for their practical training.

Not all of the Mexican students trained in the same area. Two were on feedlots, one on a cow/calf operation, one on a crop farm and another on a dairy.

"Strong friendships were formed with their Alberta hosts. All the hosts expressed their intentions to follow-up with a visit to Mexico in the near future," says Doug Taylor, an Alberta Agriculture farm training supervisor and the project co-ordinator.

"One of the host farmers remarked participants in a project like this has reinforced his belief that international trade and business partnerships will need to include training and work placements such as these," adds Taylor.

The project came out of a Mexican trade mission by Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister. During the trip Paszkowski met officials of the agricultural university in Monterrey. After a follow-up visit to Alberta by the school's director, arrangements were made to have senior year students come to Alberta for training using the Green Certificate program.

Contact: Doug Taylor (403)427-2171

If it were a feedlot...

Australian Mal Brown learned a lot about feedlots when he was in Alberta to make a presentation at the Summer Agricultural Education Institution. Enough to conclude that if the institute were a feedlot, it would be the best in Alberta.

His analogy draws on what he gleaned in conservations and observations about the province's feedlot industry. In particular, that quality put into the operation results in quality out. "The institute is one of the most productive eight days I've spent," he says.

Brown, of the Victoria state agriculture department, came not just to talk about Australian sustainable agriculture initiatives, but also for a first-hand look at the Alberta institute and associated Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) activities. He already had a base of knowledge. Instead of re-inventing the wheel, Australia has adopted and is adapting the Alberta AITC model for use there.

The eight-day institute, held this year in Lethbridge in late July and scheduled for Vermilion in 1996, is designed to provide teachers with an opportunity to experience the agricultural industry hands-on, develop practical curriculum and earn credit for a fourth-year university level course. The first institute was held in 1990. Industry support has grown from initial program partners to include many provincial commodity organizations and agribusinesses as well as local groups, businesses and farm family hosts.

"I didn't foresee industry commitment as high as it is here," says Brown. He gives credit to institute co-founder Betty Gabert and its first partners UFA and Alberta Pool.

The first Australian version of the institute will run in September. Brown will provide organizers there with a report on his Alberta experience along with his suggestions.

Currently, through a co-operative agreement, some Alberta Agriculture ATIC materials and concepts have been adapted for Australia and are being tried out in schools there. Brown says he thinks the agricultural ambassador program will be particularly valuable in Australia.

Graduates of Alberta's institute become agricultural ambassadors for their schools. The program's goal is to have a teacher agricultural ambassador in every Alberta school. Brown sees this access into class rooms as valuable for

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Australian agricultural commodity groups that have resource and awareness materials, but lack direct access to students.

Brown himself was a resource says Gabert, Alberta Agriculture agricultural awareness specialist and co-ordinator of Alberta's Agriculture in the Classroom program. "Mal's presentation about sustainable agriculture was supplemented by the facilitation model used in the Australian Land Care program. He shared this model not just at the institute but with department staff. So we had the opportunity to learn from him, too."

Because he was also learning about the Institute's operation, Brown joined institute "students" in spending a day with a host farm family. He describes the visit as an institute highlight. The operation he visited included both dryland and irrigation farming. Brown says he was impressed with the science-based operation of the farm.

Contact: *Betty Gabert*
(403)427-2171

Get with farm business management training

Instructors and participants agree increased profit and more control over the future are major benefits of training offered through the Canada-Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI).

Over the last three years, FBMI has combined the resources of colleges, university, agribusiness and government to provide farm management training and information to farm managers notes Nan Bartlett, Peace region FBMI program representative.

"The program has built a reputation for high quality, practical management training that gets results," she adds.

FBMI-sponsored training programs will be available throughout the province again this winter. Programs will help farm families adapt, grow and master the business of farming in the 21st century. Training programs costs are shared between FBMI and each farmer participant. In many cases, FBMI picks up 70 per cent of the course cost.

"Farmers can look forward to course topics such as developing marketing plans, effective resource management, using computers effectively, environmental law and the farm, and estate planning," says Bartlett.

Agencies, organizations and or producer groups who would like to co-sponsor farm management training are encouraged to submit a proposal. The proposal deadline is September 22, 1995.

Proposal packages are available from Anita Lunden, the provincial FBMI co-ordinator in Olds at (403)556-4278), or from a FBMI regional program representative. The southern representative is Craig Smith in Glenwood, at (403)626-3448 or fax (403)626-3461. The central rep is Delin Sheehan-Millang in Stettler at (403)742-5474 or fax (403)742-7527. The northwest rep is Arla Trueblood in Dapp at (403)945-3745 (phone and fax). The northeast rep is Elma Herde in Ardmore at (403)826-1956 (phone and fax). Bartlett is in Fairview at (403)835-4288 or fax (403)835-2899.

Farm managers interested in FBMI-sponsored training programs can get more information from their local Alberta Agriculture district office or from a FBMI program representative.

Contact: *Nan Bartlett*
(403)835-4288

Focus on Alberta diversity and products on northern 4-H trip

More than 20 4-Hers return home tomorrow (Aug. 15) after spending nearly two weeks on the road between Edmonton and Yellowknife.

The group of 21 4-Hers plus three chaperons left Edmonton on Aug. 3 and travelled as far north as Yellowknife. The tour is designed to increase the delegates' awareness of agricultural diversity in northern Alberta says Marguerite Stark, Alberta Agriculture's provincial 4-H programs specialist.

"Camping enroute, the 4-Hers purchase Alberta products wherever possible, visit agricultural processing and production facilities, and identify Alberta products available in the Northwest Territories," says Stark.

The 4-Hers making the trip are: Mark Bingemen of Oyen, Chris Boorse of St. Paul, Jodie Cunningham of Milk River, Juanita Drake of Wainwright, Tracey Edge of Cochrane, Tammy Erion of Castor, Jessica Foster of Westlock, Kim Fowler of Airdrie, Randy Gagyi of Huxley, Larry Gillard of Lacombe, Lia Lundgren of Vulcan, Jeannette Mandrusiak of Two Hills, Craig Marshman of Rockyford, Corey Milligan of Red Deer, Darren and Dean Ohynsty of Wildwood, Riley Parsons of Youngstown, Tammy Sandberg of Fort Macleod, Don Vermeeren of Scandia, Ken Wedman of Wetaskiwin and Marcey Willes of Vermilion.

Trip chaperons were Eric Jones, Alberta Agriculture farm safety specialist, and leaders Rosemary Rosin of Craigmyle and Stacy Livingstone-Murray of Lethbridge.

Tour participants were chosen at the annual 4-H selections program this past spring. Trip awards are based on community and 4-H involvement plus interpersonal skills.

For the sixth consecutive year, the tour was sponsored by Alberta Treasury Branches and Northlands Park.

Contact: *Marguerite Stark* *Eric Jones*
(403)948-8510 *(403)427-2171*

Two 4-Hers ponder international affairs

Two Alberta 4-Hers are spending this week with over 130 of their peers to explore the political, economic and social dynamics of international affairs.

Tara Wesner of Drumheller and Kristy D'Agnone of Foremost are attending the 43rd annual seminar on the United Nations and International Affairs (SUNIA). The seminar is held at the Goldeye Centre near Nordegg.

United Nations diplomats, Canadian Foreign Affairs officials and international trade representatives will lead the discussions. The 1995 program focus is on the United Nations 50th anniversary and Canada's world role.

The 4-H delegates earned the right to attend SUNIA at the annual provincial 4-H selections program. Trip awards are based on 4-H and community involvement plus interpersonal skills.

Northlands Park and Calgary Exhibition and Stampede each sponsor one 4-H delegate.

Contact: Marguerite Stark
(403)948-8510

Shifting gears from field to office

Asking how their job has changed rouses a unanimous answer from long-time agricultural fieldmen – more time in the office and less in the field.

John Vanden Broeke, a 16-year fieldman with the County of Lethbridge, describes his job as becoming more of a paper chase through administrative paperwork such as grant applications.

"It used to be I spent 75 per cent of the time in the field and 25 per cent in the office. Now it's vice versa and the field time is shrinking," he says.

"The paper trail has increased and increased and increased," echoes Vern Arnold who has spent the last 35 years as the County of Flagstaff agricultural fieldman.

Arnold, and others such as Barrhead's Marilyn Flock, describe the shift as dramatic. Both regret less time in the field. Field work, explains Flock, is why she wanted the job.

While some ASBs have added assistants to help with both office and field work, Vanden Broeke says the shift to office may make the job more difficult for new fieldmen because they won't have as much direct contact with ratepayers.

For some ASBs, Alberta Agriculture's move to specialists instead of the generalist district agriculturists has brought more extension questions to their agricultural fieldman's offices. The amount of extra extension queries varies by area. Most fieldman get those general sort of extension, information-seeking questions anyway. Normand Boulet says he's seen a real swing in the sheer quantity of what a fieldman needs to know since he became one in 1986.

"In any given day," says the Greenview fieldman who is based in Valleyview, "a fieldman might be asked to identify a plant as described by a farmer as 'kinda green, about yea tall with bluish/purplish/yellowish flowers – you know the one'; whether GRIP or NISA is a good idea; what crops will give the best returns this year; what to spray; what'll happen when the Crow Rate is gone; to identify insects eating a maple tree and give a solution by phone; and, to speak publicly, intelligently and immediately on a subject requiring a Masters' degree to comprehend."

Change isn't anything new. "The fieldman's roles are always changing due to the change and progression of agriculture," says Brent Hoyland, County of Flagstaff agricultural fieldman.

"We definitely must change with it," he adds. "The main role change I see coming is fieldmen becoming more involved in environmental issues such as landfills, oilfield reclamation and becoming more familiar with all environmental regulations. Parts of the job that will never change will be pest and weed control."

Contact: Bernie Yakimyshyn
(403)427-2171

Note to editors and news directors: This article is from a complete package about the 50thanniversary of the ASB program. If you'd like a copy, please contact Bernie Yakimyshyn in Edmonton at (403)427-2171. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Agri-News briefs

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Fort Macleod loosestrife pull August 19

Volunteers will be pulling up their sleeves and pulling out purple loosestrife near Fort Macleod this Saturday (Aug. 19). It's the last in a series of organized volunteer pulls at trouble spots. These pulls are one way to combat purple loosestrife in aquatic areas because there aren't any chemicals registered to control this noxious weed. Anyone interested in volunteering for the pull should contact Kathy Sandy, Municipal District of Willowcreek fieldman, at (403)625-3351 in Claresholm. She can provide details about where to meet and what to wear. Purple loosestrife is an aggressive plant that invades wetlands, chokes out native vegetation and reduces available food and shelter for wildlife. This perennial weed can produce 2.5 million seeds per year. Those seeds are easily spread through streams, rivers and lakes. Highly competitive with other plants, the loosestrife seeds germinate quickly once they touch the ground. Purple loosestrife is easily recognized by its long, bright pink/purple flowers. Each flower has five to six petals growing on vertical spikes. It blooms from mid-July through September. It's also a tall plant growing to heights of between one and three metres. Its leaves are tongue shaped with smooth edges and attach directly to a four-sided stem. For more information, contact project co-ordinator Stephen Dusek in Edmonton at (403)427-7098. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Straw to Gold Symposium '95 in October

Straw products and technologies from around the globe are featured at *Straw to Gold Symposium'95* Oct. 24 and 25 in Winnipeg. Speakers are from North America, Europe and Australia. They'll discuss potential uses such as paper, particle board and fuels, straw supply, sustainable removal from fields and other business issues. For more information about the conference, call (204)945-4529 in Winnipeg.

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AGRI-NEWS

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90 years celebrated at Crops of Alberta

Traditional crops from earlier this century, emerging crops of tomorrow and everything in between are at the 1995 *Crops of Alberta* demonstration.

All can be viewed at the demonstration's annual open house August 31 and September 1. During the open house, guided tours will be available at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m.

"As usual the one acre plot shows both the history and diversity of Alberta crops," says co-ordinator Trish Heron. That's especially true in 1995 given the display's theme.

"The annual display's theme celebrates the provincial agriculture department's 90th anniversary," she notes. The provincial department was born the same day as Alberta the province on September 1, 1905.

About 170 plots cover traditional cereal crops such as wheat, barley and oats, canola that became prominent in the 1970s, fruit such as strawberries that become more prevalent in the last decade and herbs that may well be the wave of the future. Flowers for drying are also part of the display.

Crops of Alberta is open to the public throughout the growing season, from planting in May through to September. People can guide themselves through the plots by reading the information signs. Special individual and group tours can also be arranged by calling Heron at (403)427-2530.

The annual display is located immediately south of the J.G. O'Donoghue Building, Alberta Agriculture's headquarters, part the Neil Crawford Centre in Edmonton. The address is 7000-113 Street.

The Crops of Alberta display has been a joint project of Alberta Agriculture's agronomy unit and the University of Alberta's plant science department since 1985.

Adjacent to Crops of Alberta are two other displays of note. Immediately south is a Prairie Spaces plot of native fescue grassland. Just north is a permanent composting display will 11 different composting models.

Contact: *Trish Heron*
(403)427-2530

Right fit for all at Horse Breeders and Owners Conference

It's not too soon for people in the horse industry to mark their calendars for the 1996 *Horse Breeders and Owners Conference* Jan. 12 through 14 in Red Deer.

"Speakers are confirmed and the program's been drafted for another edition of the leading horse industry conference in Canada," says Bob Coleman, Alberta Agriculture provincial horse specialist.

The annual conference has four streams – Arabian, Quarter Horse, Thoroughbreds and all breeds – in its program. Topics cover general areas of production, equine business and riding.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

"Participants aren't limited to the sessions they can attend, although the conference is organized in these streams. As well, they receive printed materials from all the sessions," notes Coleman.

Two of the featured speakers at the 1996 conference are equine nutritionists. Laurie Lawrence is from the University of Kentucky and heads one of the leading equine research groups in North America. Lawrence will discuss the water and electrolyte balance for performance horses.

"Her research is of particular interest given the Olympic Games in Atlanta next summer. This balance is particularly critical for performance horses in very humid climates, but also has implications for all performance horses," says Coleman.

For anyone who has wondered why their horse prefers certain forages over others, Julia McCann has an answer. The Georgia-based nutritionist will talk about how horses use forages and the relationship between forages and a horse's grazing behavior.

"As usual, there'll be a connection to the Kentucky horse business at the conference. A major horse farm manager will be on hand to discuss a couple of business related topics. Other speakers will share their expertise on everything from how a horse sees to how saddles fit," says Coleman.

Conference registration remains the same rate for 1996. Registration is $75 per person with every additional person from the same farm at $50.

For more information about the 1996 conference, contact Coleman in Edmonton at (403)427-5096 or Les Burwash in Airdrie at (403)948-8532. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Bob Coleman (403)427-5096
Les Burwash (403)948-8532

Classic start to new provincial 4-H event

With 60 members from 15 Alberta 4-H light horse clubs plus 40 volunteer leaders on hand, the 1995 *Provincial Horse Classic* drew solid interest for a first time event.

"This program has the potential to grow, especially given the focus that allows participants to compare horse knowledge, enhance skills and socialize with other 4-H horse project members through three days of competition, educational clinics and social activities," says Henry Wiegman, Alberta Agriculture provincial 4-H agriculture specialist.

Contests were for both individuals and teams. Everyone who registered was automatically entered in the hippology contest. This tested members' equine knowledge through five phases – knowledge stations, live horse judging, identification stations, a quiz and team problems.

The top four senior members – based on individual hippology points – qualified for the *Denver Western 4-H Roundup*, January 17 to 23, 1996. They are Shasta Heintz of the Rainbow Riders 4-H Light Horse Club (Stettler area), Holly Johanson of the Lakedell 4-H Light Horse Club (Westerose area), Candace MacGougan of the Coronation 4-H Range Riders and Cherie McGowan of the Killam 4-H Light Horse Club.

MacGougan was the top senior in the contest. Top intermediate was Rhianne Weghnnar of the Rainbow Riders and top junior, Christina Toews of the Hanna Prairie Riders. The top team was Angela Cawsey of Red Deer 4-H Horsemen, Holly Johanson of the Lakedell club and Carmen Labrie of the St. Paul 4-H Light Horse Club.

Taking first place in the team demonstration contests were the junior pair of Pam Grouette and Amanda Shepherd of the Rainbow Riders, the intermediate team of Jill McDonald and Tamara Quaschnick of the Berry Creek Light Horse Club (Provost/Metiskow area) and the senior team of MacGougan and Colleen Webb of the Coronation club.

Top junior in the demonstration contest was KayDee Munns of the Rainbow Riders, top intermediate was Holly MacGoughan of the Coronation club and top senior was Staci Saruga of the Killam club.

Saruga was a member of the winning "A" event horse bowl team with Killam teammates Cherie, Randy and Susann McGowan. A St. Paul team took the B event. Team members were Lisa Belland, Amanda Farris, Kyla Petterson and Joanne Richer.

Marketing class winners were junior, Toews of Hanna; intermediate, Richer of St. Paul; and, senior, Cherie McGowan of Killam.

The *1995 Provincial Horse Classic* was held at Olds College earlier this month. For more information, contact Wiegman in Edmonton at (403)422-4444. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Henry Wiegman
(403)422-4444

4-Her in Newfoundland for forestry camp

After this week Newfoundland won't just be a place on the map for Alberta 4-Her Tracy Gardner.

Gardner, of Olds, spent last week with 4-Hers from across Atlantic Canada at a Young Forester's Camp. This week, she's staying with a Newfoundland host family and learning more about Canada's youngest and most easterly province.

"The camp program helps participants learn more about Canada's forests, their importance to the nation's economy,

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their role in ecological well-being and the Canadian identity," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H programs specialist.

"While staying with a host family, Tracy will visit tourist attractions and cultural sites as well as take in local events," she adds.

Gardner was chosen to take the trip last spring at the provincial 4-H selections program. Trip awards are based on 4-H and community involvement plus interpersonal skills. She also is the 1995 Premier's Award recipient. This is the Alberta 4-H program's highest honor.

The Alberta 4-H member/leader bursary fund sponsors one delegate to attend this program.

Contact: Marguerite Stark (403)948-8510

Tracy Gardner (403)556-7118

Government plays ASB supporting role

The provincial agriculture department has been a parent of sorts to agricultural service boards (ASB), starting with their conception and continuing through their nurture.

"Initially, in 1945, the department's role was helping the first ag service boards to get set up. Today, 50 years later, we still have that role as new and new-look service boards incorporate," says Bernie Yakimyshyn, administrator of the ASB program.

For example, as an improvement district becomes a municipal district, its ASB structure changes from total ratepayer representation to one with more balanced representation from municipal councillors and ratepayers.

There is an ASB in virtually every rural Alberta municipality. Currently there are a total of 71 ASBs across the province. "Some municipalities are forming ASBs for the first time as their local agricultural industry develops," he notes.

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One of the department's other major roles is handling grant administration. ASBs apply for annual grants to assist with operating costs for weed control and other legislated programs such as pest control, and soil and water conservation.

"In the next few months, updating the ASB Act will be on the agenda. Plans and time lines for input on an amended act were announced earlier this year at the annual ASB conference," notes Yakimyshyn.

As well, the department provides a number of support services. A variety of department specialists are available as resources for ASBs. That can mean anyone from a conservation planner to a rural development specialist to a weed specialist.

"We're also a central way of providing and distributing information," he adds. "This role is a co-operative one with the service boards and with the fieldmens' association.

"Essentially, the provincial agriculture department and ASBs work together in our collective mission to 'maintain and improve agricultural production'."

Contact: Bernie Yakimyshyn (403)427-2171

Supporting the people out in the field

From the beginning, agricultural fieldmen have been integral to the success of each local agricultural service board (ASB). Their jobs were more difficult when most worked in isolation from each other. When they formed their own organization, both individuals and their agricultural service boards grew stronger.

The precursor to today's Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF), the Association of Municipal District and County Field Supervisors, was established in 1957, a dozen years after the provincial government enacted agricultural service board legislation. In 1968 the association changed to its current name.

As noted a decade ago in *The First Forty Years*, fieldman have their association to thank for a number of gains – defining roles, establishing job standards, arranging in-service training and even setting salary standards.

The AAAF's mandate remains much the same in 1995 as it was nearly 40 years ago: work in conjunction with any organization interested in the betterment of agriculture; promote education and training standards for its members; mutually assist each other in the administration of legislation and policies dealing with ASBs; and, establish a standard of conduct and qualifications for its members.

One of the first orders of business for the new association was setting up a regional network. At those meetings, fieldmen shared ideas and program information. As well, a newsletter was established to keep members abreast of developments on local, regional and provincial levels.

Field days and conventions were organized. Currently there are annual summer tours of one municipality. As well the five regions take turns organizing the annual ASB and AAAF convention.

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John Vanden Broeke, County of Lethbridge fieldmen for the last 16 years and an AAAF regional director, says the association will have to continue to become more professional. He predicts it may need an executive director to co-ordinate things such as the annual conventions, since each fieldmen's workload continues to increase.

Vern Arnold, who celebrated his 35th anniversary as a fieldmen this May, was the AAAF president from 1980 through 1982. Arnold says the association should have a role in coming discussions about changes to the Agricultural Service Board Act. "As an association we have to be intimately involved with any act changes to ensure counties and municipalities have a strong voice in agriculture," says Arnold.

For Pincher Creek fieldmen Al Jacklin the association is valuable as a sounding board, a place where concerns can be aired; concerns such as those raised as resolutions as the association's annual meeting.

Current AAAF president Brent Hoyland sees a positive future for the AAAF. "The organization's future will hopefully remain strong and committed to the betterment of agriculture in all aspects," he says.

Contact: Brent Hoyland
(403)384-3537

Bernie Yakimyshyn
(403)427-2171

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Agri-News briefs

Forage Summit'95 in November

Canada's newest cinderella crop will be in the spotlight at *Forage Summit'95* November 11 through 13 in Edmonton. "Forage today is at the same point that rapeseed was before the canola promotion began. We're about to change the image of forage completely," says Eugene Braun, a Manitoba hay producer and chair of Forage Summit'95. Sponsored by the Canadian Forage Council, the summit will be Canada's first national forage conference and trade show. As well, there will be concurrent workshop sessions. The summit was designed to bring together seed producers, farmers, processors, exporters and international users to exchange ideas and information about the potential of forages. For more information, contact the Canadian Forage Council in Calgary at (403)244-4487, fax (403)244-2340 or write P.O. Box 4520, Station C, Calgary, AB, T2T 5N3.

New disease and deficiency factsheets available

Forecasting sclerotinia in canola and copper deficiency in cereal crops are two of the recently revised and released Alberta Agriculture factsheets. *Disease Forecasting for Sclerotinia White Stem Rot in Canola* (FS149/632-4) describes one of canola's most destructive diseases and is designed to help producers decide when it's economical to apply a fungicide. *Copper Deficiency in Cereal Crops* (FS532-2) shows farmers how to recognize copper deficiency in their soils. It includes a table of symptoms and 11 color photographs. Both fact sheets are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or by writing the department's central publications office at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Assess WGTA's end, plan out of transition

Alberta farmers have more to consider than simply filling out the Western Grain Transitional Payments Program forms by the September 15 deadline say two Alberta Agriculture farm business management specialists.

"While in the immediate future many farmers and landowners will be dealing with the forms and payment arrangements between landlord and tenants, the expected impact from eliminating the Western Grain Transportation Act (WGTA) will be far more reaching than the one-time exgratia payment," says Paul Gervais. [See related article on arrangements between landowners and tenants.]

"How the Prairie farm economy will change hasn't been seen yet. However, it's certain Alberta farmers will have new challenges and opportunities that will affect farmers' business plans significantly. Our advice is to assess the potential impact on their operation right away," adds Ted Ford.

The first significant consequence of no WGTA is changes to the cost of shipping grain through the railway system. The expected result is that farmers will place greater emphasis on cost reduction in the short term.

However, in the longer term, increased freight costs will have to be factored into crop budgets says Ford. "Farmers will have to decide the most profitable crops to grow and in what rotations. From this will flow decisions about how much they can afford to pay for land, either to rent or to buy."

Risk and uncertainty also have to be factored into these decisions. As well, farmers may want to seek out information about new market opportunities for their crops. On and off-farm diversification and value-added activities are other options.

"The starting point for assessing changes is taking stock of your current operations and then asking yourself a number of questions," says Gervais. These questions include: How will freight rate changes affect my operation? What other changes are happening that affect my operation? Are there new market opportunities for me? What business planning tools are available to help me assess those opportunities? What information don't I have? Who has this information?

Alberta farmers can get help from a number of different department specialists located around the province. This includes the farm business management branch in Olds, farm management specialists located in eight district offices, market specialists in seven district offices and market analysts at department headquarters in Edmonton. For more information, contact your local district office.

Contact: Ted Ford
(403)556-4218

Paul Gervais
(403)556-4250

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Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

September 15 deadline for WGTPP

Alberta farmers and landowners face a September 15 deadline to complete claims for the Western Grain Transitional Payments Program (WGTPP).

WGTPP is a federal government program set up to distribute a one-time $1.6 billion payment to eligible farmland holders. The payment is compensation for the elimination of the Western Grain Transportation Act (WGTA) subsidy to railways.

Eligibility for the program payment is determined by what crop was grown on the land in 1994. If the land was summerfallowed in 1994, then the 1993 crop is the criterion.

"The forms and your claim are relatively straight forward except if you rent or lease land," says Paul Gervais of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.

A condition of the program payment when eligible farmland is rented or leased is that landowners come to an "equitable" agreement with their tenants over the payment.

"This has been the cause of some controversy," says Gervais. "However, it's important to note the payment is in anticipation of reduced land values. Also, payment will only be made to the landowner and in most cases will be tax deferred."

The tax deferral is because Revenue Canada will treat the payments as capital receipts. These can be used to reduce the cost-base of the recipient's farmland.

The payment can be shared with a tenant as a rent reduction, rent rebate or even a gift to the tenant. "This will depend on the circumstances and advice of your accountant," he notes.

If landlords and tenants can't decide on an equitable arrangement, a mediation/arbitration process is available through the program's administration. For more information, call the WGTPP administration in Regina at 1-800-667-9962.

"Tenants must inform WGTPP in writing by October 15 to start the process if they're unhappy with the arrangement with their landlord," he stresses.

Contact:	*Ted Ford* *(403)556-4218*	*Paul Gervais* *(403)556-4250*

Residue management starts at the cutterbar

Proper management of crop residues is important for both conservation and optimum crop production, but finding the right residue spreading system to fit your farming operation can be challenging says an Alberta Agriculture farm machinery specialist.

"Ensuring a wide and uniform distribution of crop residues doesn't have one easy and simple answer," says Marshall Eliason of the engineering services branch. "You have to find and choose the management scheme that best fits your equipment and operation."

While many types of equipment can provide an even residue distribution, good residue management starts at the combine's cutterbar he adds. The specific considerations are cutting width and stubble cutting height. "Fortunately, more sophisticated spreaders and choppers make the range of choices larger," notes Eliason.

Current straw spreaders and choppers can spread up to 50 feet or more. This means straw residues can and should be spread evenly over the entire cutting width for most Alberta conditions. However, spreading can be slightly more difficult when harvesting double 30 or double 40 foot windrows.

Stubble cutting height affects how much material other than grain, or MOG, enters the combine and has to be spread. "This means you have to weigh plugging concerns against the stubble height desired for conservation," he says. "The rule-of-thumb is to cut to a height equivalent to the equipment's shank spacing of your subsequent field operation."

Aggressively chopping residues in the combine helps alleviate plugging. However, this has to be weighed against the power requirements needed. For example, many newer choppers have more rotating and stationary knives and/or increased chopper speed. The result is a finely chopped straw. However, this can require 30 to 40 horsepower, typically 10 to 20 per cent of a combine's power. "That's a noticeable amount for anyone who runs at or near the power limit of their combine," notes Eliason.

As well, an even and wide chaff distribution is equally important to straw distribution. "Unfortunately, trying to spread chaff is a lot like trying to throw a feather," he says. "No matter how hard you try, it doesn't go very far."

To spread chaff effectively requires inducing a sufficient air flow to carry chaff the necessary distance. Most spinning disc-type chaff spreaders do a good job spreading to about 15 to 20 feet. They only require a couple of horsepower and are effective for cutting widths up to 30 feet.

"Since it's more desirable to spread chaff over the entire cutting width, larger widths require pneumatic chaff spreaders," says Eliason. This type cause a large air blast that carries chaff over 30 feet. They require five to 10 horsepower.

Some spreaders can spread both straw and chaff. Mixing the two helps achieve a wide and uniform residue distribution. Typically, this type of spreader is used on rotary combines where straw and chaff exit the combine at a similar place. They can be fitted to some conventional combines.

Contact: *Marshall Eliason*
(403)427-2181

Direct-seeding, fertilizer relationship to winter wheat

Research to date has shown fertilizing winter wheat in the fall may be a better choice than the spring says an Alberta Agriculture soil fertility specialist.

Ross McKenzie, along with Allan Middleton, of the department's agronomy unit are involved in a three-year winter wheat fertilizer project. They're studying conventional versus direct-seeding to establish winter wheat as well as the effects of seed-placed nitrogen fertilizer in the fall versus broadcasting in the spring.

Two sites were part of the study in 1994. They were used to look at fertilizer applied at seeding and in the spring. "Our results to date are only for the Lethbridge and Bow Island sites, and while they aren't conclusive, they are interesting," says McKenzie.

The 1994 results suggest higher rates of nitrogen fertilizer, whether seed-placed or banded, didn't effect winter hardiness or over winter survival.

"Surprisingly to us, there wasn't a significant response to phosphate fertilizer at either site when adequate nitrogen fertilizer was applied," he adds. However, McKenzie normally recommends 15 to 25 lb./ac. of phosphate fertilizer, placed with the seed, to improve winter hardiness.

At both locations where nitrogen was banded prior to seeding, plant populations were 10 to 30 per cent less than those on direct-seeded treatments. "Banding prior to seeding had a negative effect on seedbed quality," he notes.

Fall banded or seed-placed nitrogen fertilizer resulted in higher yields than spring broadcast fertilizer at Bow Island. There were little different in winter wheat yields between the fall and spring timing at the Lethbridge site.

Four new sites – at Bow Island, Barons, High River and Pincher Creek – were added to the study in the fall of 1994. Site fertilizer and seeding treatments were done in co-operation with the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre.

"We've added another type of fertilizer treatments, a block of four anhydrous ammonia treatments, to all the sites except High River. They'll be another source of data and comparison for the study," says McKenzie. Plans are to add another five sites this fall for study in the 1996 crop year.

A number of partners funded the research project in 1995. They include the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) Farming for the Future on-farm demonstration program, Sherritt, the Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission, the Potash and Phosphate Institute and Westco.

Contact: *Ross McKenzie*
(403)381-5126

4-H judging excellence rewarded

While weather was wet, spirits weren't dampened at the recent ninth annual *Provincial 4-H Judging Competition*.

"Our 63 participants demonstrated a very solid knowledge of how to judge five livestock species," says Henry Wiegman, Alberta Agriculture provincial 4-H agriculture specialist.

"As well, 13 of them earned the right to attend other shows and judging competitions," he adds.

Cale Place of the Nanton 4-H Beef Club scored the highest point total over the two-day competition. He claimed top spot in beef judging and in overall placings, along with a second place in overall reasons. For his efforts, he won a trip to the Denver National Western Stock Show next January. The trip is sponsored by the Alberta Canada All Breeds Association (ACABA).

"Cale placed second overall at last year's competition, but declined the trip award because he had prior commitments. Luckily, he did even better this year," notes Wiegman.

The rest of the top five finishers will make up an Alberta team at the Denver Western Round-up also held in January 1996. They'll compete against 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) teams from across the U.S.

Those four delegates (in order of their finish) are Patricia Kozack of the Camrose 4-H Beef Club, Chelsea Tomlinson of the Vimy 4-H Beef Club, Karen Peters of the Rosebrier (Westaskiwin) 4-H Beef Club and Chris Bowman of the Lakemere (Onoway) 4-H Beef Club.

Another eight of the provincial contestants qualified to attend the Canadian Western Agribition and compete in its international 4-H judging seminar. They are (in order of finish) Stephen Cholak of the Lamont 4-H Beef Club, Holly Johanson of the Lakedell (Westerose) 4-H Light Horse Club, Reed Rigney and Billie Dawn Chubb of the Bon Accord Beef Club, Andrea Nelson of the Achievers 4-H Multi-Club in Camrose, Carla Dubovsky of the Double Diamond (Busby) 4-H Multi-Club, Coralee Armstrong of the Pembina West (Dapp) 4-H Beef Club and Trisha Hogg of the West Didsbury 4-H Multi-Club.

Both of these trips are sponsored by UNIBLOK Canada.

"The strength of the overall members' abilities can be seen in the fact although two participants won species classes, they didn't make the top 15," says Wiegman. Those two were Crista Anderson of Bon Ayr 4-H Beef Club who won dairy judging and Jennifer McDonald of the Duffield 4-H Beef and Swine Club who topped the sheep class.

Senior 4-Hers qualify for this provincial contest through district and regional events. The provincial competition includes instructional and information clinics. Participants go

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on to judge 15 livestock competition classes. They judge dairy cattle, beef cattle, light and heavy horses, swine and sheep conformation. Their evaluation includes written and oral reasons. They're also rated through a written quiz, microphone presentation and recall questions.

This is the second consecutive year the provincial event was held in Olds in conjunction with the annual Mountain View County Fair. The competition's exclusive sponsor is Alberta Treasury Branches.

For more information about the competition or complete contest results, contact Wiegman in Edmonton at (403)427-2541. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Henry Wiegman (403)427-2541
Rob Smith (403)427-2541

Alberta Agriculture appointment

New beef specialist in Drayton Valley

Jim Birch has joined Alberta Agriculture as a beef specialist. Based in Drayton Valley, Birch's work will focus on cow/calf operations. As a district specialist, he'll work with producers, agribusiness and research groups.

Birch comes to Alberta from Saskatchewan where most recently he co-ordinated beef management programs for the Saskatchewan Livestock Association. His background also includes a decade of part-time and four years full-time teaching beef production and management at the Wascana Institute in Regina. Birch also farmed for 10 years after spending eight years working in the commercial feed industry.

Originally from the Outlook area about 70 miles south of Saskatoon, Birch grew-up on a mixed family farm that included cow/calf, horse, swine and grain. He received a BSA majoring in animal science from the University of Saskatchewan in 1967.

Birch can be reached in Drayton Valley at (403)542-5363. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Flagstaff's first fieldman values lasting bond

A family friend sent Brian Lee the advertisement that steered his career path into the world of agricultural service boards (ASB) and agricultural fieldmen.

He was working at a lumber mill when he received the Municipal District of Flagstaff's ad seeking a field supervisor for the newly formed agricultural service board. Just more than two months after the Flagstaff ASB's first official meeting, Lee started his job on January 15, 1953. Thirty-three years later, in 1986, Lee retired on the same day, January 15.

While the official definition of an agricultural fieldman is the administrative officer of the ASB, Lee jokes an informal definition of fieldman from his day still applies – someone who "passes the buck, shoots the bull and makes five copies of everything".

The red tape implied in the definition increased through the years. But the biggest changes he says was in the wages. He was hired at a salary of $200 a month ($2,400 a year) and was paid 10 cents per mile mileage. He logged 6,000 miles the first year. When he retired his salary had multiplied by more than tenfold to $30,000 annually.

Hiring a field supervisor – the role that eventually became agricultural fieldman – was one of three priorities the Flagstaff ASB set at its first meeting in November 1952. Another was planning and building seed cleaning plants. The newly formed board became central to efforts to building seed cleaning plants within the municipality. The Strome plant opened almost exactly a year after the first ASB meeting.

Lee remembers with a certain amount of pride his involvement with the county's four seed cleaning plants in Strome, Lougheed, Alliance and Forestburg. "Only one other fieldman had as many seed cleaning plants in his area," he notes. That other fieldman was Ralph Wilson of the County of Vermilion River.

Flagstaff ASB's other priority was developing a strong program to assist its farmer ratepayers. One of its most recognizable was a tree planting program in the late 1950s and early 1960s says Lee. Through that period about 100,000 trees were planted every year. The municipality also became the first to pick up its tree order at the province's Edmonton tree nursery in 1959. The change saved farmers' money as previously trees were shipped to farmers individually by rail.

Lee admits, and not reluctantly, that he didn't "mind sticking my neck out" when it came to new program ideas. In fact he was well-known for his willingness to check out new technologies. As he paraphrased a former colleague, "If there's something new, Lee will try it."

Lee also describes his good fortune in his neighboring fieldmen, Bill Bauer of Stettler and Ted Havlik of Camrose. "Bill was the one of the best record keepers," says Lee, "and Ted the best spray mechanic and chemical man. We always claimed region three was the best region in Alberta. We got along well and worked with each other well."

Lee still treasures the close friendships made from those days. "They were really the happiest days of our lives," he says. Reminiscing about those times he describes as his "forte". For example, about 20 of "the boys" got together last summer for a weekend of remembering when. Earlier this year he met other former colleagues he hadn't seen for a decade. "The

Cont'd on page 5

bond was there," he says of the years melting away through conversation.

Retired and living in Sedgewick, Lee has maintained his contact with the people in the area and the area itself. "One thing I missed when I retired was mixing with people, associating with people in the county and with other fieldmen."

However, he has used his knowledge of both the people and the area in a historical project. The local historical society has erected signs on the 90 sites where schools once were. Lee has also helped out with a picture album of the schools and cemeteries.

As well, he says he still enjoys driving through the country he once watched over for weeds, pests and soil degradation.

Contact: Bernie Yakimyshyn
(403)427-2171

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AGRI-NEWS
September 4, 1995

Put yourself in a farmer's shoes

Three different simulation workshops, scheduled for later this month and in October, offer the agriculture industry an opportunity to make real-world market decisions.

"For lenders and people involved in agribusiness, these intensive simulation workshops offer a hands-on way to understand the decisions a farmer has to make. For producers, the workshops are an opportunity to develop and fine-tune marketing skills," says Doug Walkey, an Alberta Agriculture market specialist.

FutureSim, *CattleSim* and *GrainSim* were developed by Alberta Agriculture market specialists. FutureSim is the most basic course and teaches skills needed to market both livestock and grain. Its focus is hedging, dealing with brokers and managing delivery problems. It also introduces markets and market analysis.

The FutureSim workshop will be held Sept. 19 and 20 in Edmonton. The registration deadline is Sept. 6 and the limit is 25 participants. The cost is $140.25 plus GST per person.

"Registration is limited for all three courses, so registering early is important if you want to guarantee your spot," notes Walkey.

Both the other workshops run for three days. "Participants manage their own farms in these simulations," he adds.

In CattleSim, participants run a commercial cattle operation. They can buy and sell feeder cattle, match wits with packers and keep a sharp eye on the bottom line.

Two Alberta Agriculture beef specialists will also be on hand to provide some practical production information.

CattleSim is scheduled for Oct. 10 through 12 in Calgary and its registration deadline is September 22. The cost is $187 plus GST per person. Registration is limited to 30 people.

GrainSim focuses on market strategies, planning for risks and merchandising farm products. Participants can use the full range of cash contracts, delivery alternatives, futures and options for their "grain farm". Market analysis and managing farm debt are also part of the simulation.

Oct. 17 through 19 in Red Deer are the dates and location for GrainSim. Registration for GrainSim is also $187 plus GST. The registration limit is 15 people and the registration deadline is October 3.

Registration forms are available from all Alberta Agriculture district offices. For more information, you can also contact Walkey in Lacombe at (403)782-3301, or one of these market specialists: Doug Cornell in Airdrie at (403)948-8536; Lee Melvill in Brooks at (403)362-1212; Dalin Bullock in Grande Prairie at (403)538-5285; Ken Bunnage in Lamont at (403)895-2219; or, Neil Blue in Vermilion at (403)853-8263 Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Doug Walkey*
(403)782-3301 or (403)427-4011

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Ag tax update seminars return

Key agricultural industry issues and a review of tax strategies are featured at the annual farm tax seminar for accountants and lawyers coming to seven Alberta locations in late October and early November.

"Our *Agricultural Tax Update for Professionals* have been very popular. Last year over 600 people attended the seminars," notes Merle Good of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds. "Our primary objective is to offer expert information and advice on farm taxation issues and also to provide a forum to communicate industry issues to professional advisors."

The seminar agenda includes taxation treatment of timber sales, the $1.6 billion Crow Benefit payment, the $100,000 capital gains exemption and how to operate a successful farm corporation in the 1990s. Under the agricultural topic umbrella are GATT 70 and the changing world trade environment's impact on farmers.

"As always and by popular demand, there's a *tips and traps* section including current cases, letters and Revenue Canada Taxation interpretations," he adds.

Also returning to the 1995 update seminars is Dean Gallimore. Gallimore, a tax partner with KPMG Peat Marwick Thorne in Lethbridge, specializes in agricultural income tax. He's also taught many income tax seminars for agriculture and other professional clients.

The other featured speaker is Nithi Govindasamy head of trade policy in Alberta Agriculture's policy secretariat. Govindasamy has been actively involved with agricultural trade and policy issues and their impact on farm managers since 1987.

The first seminar in the series will be in Grande Prairie on October 24. The rest of the schedule is as follows: Edmonton, October 25; Red Deer, October 26; Medicine Hat, October 31; Lethbridge, November 1; Calgary, November 2; and, Lloydminster, November 3.

Registration is $150 before October 5 and $175 after that date. The fee includes lunch, coffee breaks, a binder of related materials and GST.

For more information, contact the farm business management branch in Olds at (403)556-4240. That number is toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator. Or, call the Rural Education and Development Association (REDA) in Edmonton at (403)451-5959.

Contact: Merle Good
(403)556-4237

Water recommendations should reduce farmer concerns

The Water Management Review Committee (WMRC) has provided the Minister of Environmental Protection with 93 recommendations to improve the province's new water legislation.

"Initial feedback from the agriculture industry is favourable," says Brian Colgan, who led Alberta Agriculture's review of the draft legislation.

Transferable water rights were a major issue at public meetings on the draft proposal. One very important recommendation in the report is that water licensed for traditional agricultural purposes and water for household use (one ac/ft) remains with the land and can't be transferred.

The committee also recommends that transferability will only be implemented once a water management plan is complete. Water management plans will be regional and will incorporate local needs and priorities.

If implemented, farmers will be able to get a license for traditional agricultural uses up to five ac/ft through a simplified process. Farmers will be able to grandfather these licenses back to the date their use began.

"The recommendations go a long way towards addressing agriculture's concerns with the draft legislation," says WMRC member, David Andrews, a past chairman of the Alberta Cattle Commission. "If recommendations regarding streamlined licensing for traditional agricultural purposes are incorporated into the new legislation, I hope farmers will see it as an opportunity to protect their interests."

New legislation is expected to be tabled this fall. The public will have the opportunity to review and comment on the revised draft over the winter months. This review will be important since the actual impact on the agricultural community depends on which recommendations are incorporated into the legislation. It's anticipated the legislation will be passed in the 1996 spring session.

To receive a copy of the Water Management Review Committee report, call toll-free 1-800-661-5586.

Contact:	*Brian Colgan*	*Rhonda Wehrhahn*
	(403)422-4596	*(403)427-2417*

Table 1. Approximate dry matter and fertilizer nutrient composition of various animal manures.

Type of Livestock	Waste Handling System	Dry Matter (%)	Nutrient (lb/ton raw waste) Nitrogen Available	Total	P_2O_5	K_2O
Swine	Without bedding	18	6	10	9	8
	With bedding	18	5	8	7	7
Beef cattle	Without bedding	15	4	11	7	10
	With bedding	50	8	21	18	26
Dairy cattle	Without bedding	18	4	9	4	10
	With bedding	21	5	9	4	10
Poultry	Without litter	45	26	33	48	34
	With litter	76	36	56	45	34
	Deep pit (compost)	76	44	68	64	45

Source: Purdue University ID - 101 (1975)

Manure answer for lower cost fertilizer

Manure could be your answer in the search for an excellent low cost fertilizer says an Alberta Agriculture soil fertility specialist.

"Many farmers are looking for alternatives because commercial fertilizer prices have increased dramatically over the past two years," says Ross McKenzie.

"If you live within hauling distance of a feedlot or other intensive livestock operation, manure is that alternative," he adds.

Manure has a number of nutrients. For example, nitrogen, phosphate and potassium are available from feedlot manure. So are other plant nutrients such as calcium, magnesium, copper, manganese, iron and zinc.

"Nutrient levels can vary dramatically depending on the type of animal manure as well as environmental conditions during storage and handling. You do need to consider these variables when you apply manure for fertilizer," he says. [See table above for a comparison of manure nutrient compositions.]

Delivering and spreading manure costs in the range of $3 to $5 per ton depending on the hauling distance. At a 10 ton per acre application rate, manure's total cost per acre would be $30 to $50.

"This is excellent value. If you plug in the commercial value of nitrogen, phosphate and potassium in feedlot manure, a 10 ton per acre application rate is worth approximately $180 per acre," notes McKenzie.

But its nutrients and cost, aren't manure's only benefits. Manure also increases the organic matter content of the soil. The result is a number of physical improvements in soil quality including increased water holding capacity, improved soil structure and tilth, increased water infiltration rates reducing water runoff, reduced soil crusting problems and less susceptibility to wind and water erosion. As well, soil will increase its buffering capacity against changes in pH.

"You may also be helping your neighbor," says McKenzie. Occasionally intensive livestock farmers are faced with the problem and cost of manure disposal.

"So there's a double benefit. Your neighbor disposes of extra manure and you get an excellent source of fertilizer by paying transportation costs. It's an example of a win-win situation that benefits the whole agricultural community," he adds.

Contact: *Ross McKenzie*
(403)381-5126

ASB "father" looks back

Long before fathers' assisting at births became in vogue, Bill Lobay earned the distinction as the father of agricultural service boards (ASBs).

In the late 1940s, Lobay was given the job of provincial supervisor of ASB organization and development. In February 1945 the Alberta government had passed an Agricultural Service Board Act. The legislation came out of concerns related to how to cope with two significant production problems – introduction and spread of new weeds, and soil conservation.

The act, unique in Canada, provided a framework to deal with those problems in a co-operative and co-ordinated effort between the provincial and local governments.

"I was employed by the department in the weed control and soil conservation sector in the early '40s and soon realized the liaison between the department and the municipalities was rather weak," remembers Lobay.

"As the first boards were formed – and I was in close contact with them – I soon realized their value and effectiveness. The department had a vehicle now that could put into operation our programs through local governments.

"I was thrilled and sold on the concept of boards," he adds. "Before I knew it, I soon became involved in assisting municipalities to organize their boards and helping to set out a local weed and pest control working program.

Cont'd on page 4

Lobay's association with the province's agricultural service boards stretched over the next 20 plus years to the early 1970s. During that time the number of ASBs quadrupled from less than 20 to 60. Forming an ASB isn't mandatory, he notes, but all rural municipalities eventually established one.

One of Lobay's other main contributions was his support of the people who carried out the programs, the agricultural fieldmen. Before ASBs there weren't people links between the two levels of government. When boards were formed, the legislation required hiring a full-time agricultural fieldman.

At the beginning, the fieldman duties included administering two agricultural acts – the Noxious Weeds and Agricultural Pests Act. Three other acts related to agricultural chemicals, soil conservation and livestock diseases were soon added. The fieldman was inspector, enforcement officer and programmer.

"Talk about workload," says Lobay. Some boards added a part-time helper, but fieldmen also felt they needed more training notes Lobay. As a first step, they formed their own association. Then the association, in co-operation with the provincial agriculture department developed training programs. Lobay was a trainer.

Training went beyond technical knowledge says Lobay who taught school before pursuing an agricultural degree. "In the training program, the fieldman was taught to be careful of the side effects of any recommendations he might make. He was taught to be diplomatic in his dealings with the farmer."

Brian Lee, who spent 36 years as the fieldman in the County of Flagstaff, remembers Lobay's workshops and quizzes. "He had a great influence on we fellows in the field," says Lee. "He helped us a lot."

His instrumental role as *father* of ASBs was one of the reasons Lobay was inducted into the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame in 1990. Although he retired from the department in the late 1970s he remains interested in the future of both the agriculture industry and the landmark organizations he helped build.

Earlier this year Lobay gave a message – via videotape – to the annual Alberta Agricultural Service Board convention. "Anything that is easy to do, anyone can do," was his last message to the convention delegates. "The boards are usually faced with difficult tasks and find ways to successfully cope with them. Their planning programs have no place for tunnel vision – they now have a panoramic view."

Even with potential changes to boards and board structures Lobay expressed his belief in ASBs' ability to cope. "Whatever the case, I feel confident that local governments and fieldmen, together with Alberta Agriculture, will meet these challenges and continue their work effectively for the betterment of agriculture in Alberta."

Contact: *Bernie Yakimyshyn*
(403)427-2171

Note to editors and news directors: This article is from a complete package about the 50thanniversary of the ASB program. If you'd like a copy, please contact Bernie Yakimyshyn in Edmonton at (403)427-2171. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Agri-News briefs

Great White North Pumpkin Weigh Off Oct. 6-8

A pumpkin fair and an official *Great Pumpkin Commonwealth* weigh-off return to Smoky Lake Oct. 6 through 8. The highlight weigh-off of pumpkins, squash and watermelons starts at 10 a.m. on Oct. 7. Activities kick off on Oct. 6 with bench, craft and poultry shows. The next day features a variety of activities from a farmers' market and pumpkin petting zoo, to guess the weights of pumpkins and a scarecrow competition. The pumpkin fair winds up with a pancake breakfast, community concert and church service, and the pumpkin classic golf tournament. For more information, call one of the pumpkin hotlines between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. The hotline numbers are (403)656-3674 or (403)656-3730.

New appointments to Irrigation Council

Two new members have been appointed to the Alberta Irrigation Council. Chris Vermeeren is an irrigation farmer from the Scandia area. Vern Hoff is an irrigation and dryland farmer near Gleichen. Their appointments were announced by Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister. The Alberta Irrigation Council is an advisory body to Alberta's 13 irrigation districts and to the agriculture minister. For more information, contact Larry Spiess, acting manager of the irrigation secretariat, in Lethbridge at (403)381-5176.

University swine unit receives recognition

A producer of the week award from the Alberta Pork Producers Development Corporation is significant recognition for the University of Alberta's swine research unit says an Alberta Agriculture specialist. "These are the same pigs used by University of Alberta animal scientists, graduate students and Alberta Agriculture staff for conducting research into improving animal productivity and well-being. The results obtained from their research are applicable to the best genetics on commercial farms in Alberta," says nutritionist Sam Jaikaran. The award was for a shipment of 31 market hogs during the week of Aug. 7 through 11. The hogs had an average grade of 111.48. All the carcasses were within the most desired weight range and averaged 86.85 kg. "Farm staff at the U of A swine research unit have reason to be proud of this achievement," he adds. Breeding stock at the research unit are from Pig Improvement Canada (PIC). For more information about the research unit, contact manager Janeal Mick in Edmonton at (403)492-7688.

September 15 nomination deadline for AGBA election

Nominations for Alberta Goat Breeder Association (AGBA) directors will close on September 15. Five directors' terms expire at the end of 1995. Any AGBA member in good standing can be nominated for a director position or may volunteer for the post. Nominations should be sent to Lesley Jackson, AGBA manager, at Site 3, Box 1, RR4, Calmar, AB, T0C 0V0. For more information, contact Jackson at (403)985-3863.

Coming agricultural events

Equitair and Spruce Meadows Masters
Spruce Meadows
Calgary September 6-10
Randy Fedorak-(403)974-4260-Calgary

Milk Policy on Trial International Dairy Federation Symposium
Hofburg Palace
Vienna, Austria September 12-13
IDF General Secretariat-32-2-733-98-88-Brussels, Belguim

16th Western Nutrition Conference
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan September 13-14
Leigh Campbell-(306)966-4151-Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Alberta Horse Improvement Program, light horse section
Westerner Fairgrounds
Red Deer September 16-17
September 23-24
Les Burwash-(403)948-8532-Airdrie;
Bob Coleman-(403)427-8906-Edmonton

1995 International Meat Industry Convention & Exposition
McCormick Place
Chicago, Illinois, USA September 21-24
American Meat Institute-(703)841-2400-Washington, D.C.

International Meat Merchandising Workshop
Chicago Hilton and Towers
Chicago, Illinois, USA September 24-25
American Meat Institute-(703)841-2400-Washington, D.C.

Canadian Reined Cowhorse Supreme
Westerner Grounds
Red Deer September 29-October 1
Western Exposition-(403)343-7800-Red Deer

The Great White North Pumpkin Fair and Weigh Off
Agricultural Complex
Smoky Lake October 7-8
Pumpkin Hotlines-(403)656-3674 or (403)656-3730
[between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.]-Smoky Lake

International Perspectives on Rural Employment 7th annual Rural Policy Conference of the Agriculture and Rural Restructuring Group
Coaticook, Quebec October 11-14
Ray Bollman-(613)951-3868-Ottawa, Ontario

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 50th Anniversary Symposium
Quebec City, Quebec October 11-16
Forum Quebec-(418)524-8193-Quebec City, Quebec

Canadian Water Resources Association – Managing a Shared Resource
Medicine Hat Lodge and Convention Centre
Medicine Hat October 15-17
Brent Paterson-(403)381-5140-Lethbridge

International Dairy Federation Production and Utilization of Ewes and Goats Milk Seminar
Creta Maris Hotel
Heraklion, Crete, Greece October 19-21
Dr. Effie Taskalidou-+30 1 529-4676-Athens, Greece

Meat Goat Seminar
Capri Centre
Red Deer October 23
Sara Emond-(403)789-2279-Sunnybrook

Straw to Gold Symposium
Westin Hotel
Winnipeg, Manitoba October 24-25
Straw to Gold-(204)945-4529-Winnipeg, Manitoba

Westerner Dairy Showcase'95
Westerner Grounds
Red Deer October 27-28
Western Exposition-(403)343-7800-Red Deer

Alberta Forage Council General Meeting
Norseman Inn
Camrose November 1
Dale Shaffrick-(403)785-2779-Sangudo

Composting '95—Five Years of Progress
Château Cartier Sheraton
Aylmer, Quebec November 1-3
Lise Gendron-(819)953-9368-Hull, Quebec

Alberta Horticultural Congress
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton November 2-4
Simone Demers Collins-(403)422-1789-Edmonton

Prairie West Horticultural Trade Show
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton November 2-3
Dianne Hore-(403)489-1991-Edmonton

Total Ranch Management in the Northern Great Plains
Swift Current, Saskatchewan November 2-3
Zoheir Abouguendia-(306)778-8294-Swift Current, Saskatchewan

North American Equipment Dealers Association Annual Convention
Hyatt Regency
Chicago, Illinois November 2-4
David Ottawa-(314)821-7220-St. Louis, Missouri

Food Processing Automation Conference IV
McCormick Place
Chicago, Illinois, USA November 3-5
Food & Process Engineering Institute-(616)429-0300
St. Joseph, Michigan

First Annual North American Agricultural Equipment Conference
Hyatt Regency
Chicago, Illinois November 4-5
Robert K. Schnell-(314)878-2304-2304-St. Louis, Missouri

Northlands Farmfair'95
Northlands AgriCom and Sportex
Edmonton November 4-12
Michele Weitzel-(403)471-7260-Edmonton

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
Exhibition Place
Toronto, Ontario November 7-18
Sue Bundy-(416)393-6411-Toronto, Ontario

Winds of Change – Farm Management in Uncertain Times, 1995 Farm Business Conference
Capri Centre, Red Deer, Alberta November 7-8
Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan November 15-16
Victoria Inn, Brandon Manitoba, November 28-29
London Convention Centre, London, Ontario December 5-6
Tammy or Corie-(204)944-5683-Winnipeg;
toll-free 1-800-665-8147

1995 Saskatchewan Pork Industry Symposium
Saskatoon Inn
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan November 8-9
Wendy Hughes-(306)933-5078-Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

AgriTrade'95
Westerner Grounds
Red Deer November 8-11
Western Exposition-(403)343-7800-Red Deer

Forage Summit '95
Edmonton Convention Centre
Edmonton November 11-13
Denis Maler-(403)244-4487-Calgary

16th Annual International Irrigation Exposition and Technical Conference
Phoenix Convention Centre
Phoenix, Arizona, USA November 12-14
Irrigation Association-(703)573-3551-Fairfax, Virginia

North American Agricultural Lenders Conference
Des Moines Convention Centre
Des Moines, Iowa, USA November 12-15
John Blanchfield (Amercian Bankers
Association)-(202)663-5100-Washington, D.C.

1st National Conference on Dairying
Westin Harbour Castle
Toronto, Ontario November 14-15
Kerri-Sue Lang-(905)342-2099-Toronto, Ontario

AGRITECHNICA'95
Hanover Fairgrounds
Hanover, Germany November 14-18Deutsche
Landwirtchafts-Gesellschaft-
++49 (0) 69-2 47 88-0-Frankfurt

Seed Technology Workshop
Olds College November 15-17
Bill Witbeck-(403)782-4641-Lacombe or (403)340-7152-Red Deer

Josephburg Fall Grain Marketing Conference
Josephburg Hall November 16
Ken Bunnage-(403)895-2219-Lamont; Glen
Binnington-(403)444-0066

What's Eating Your Profit – A Seminar on Parasite Control in Cattle
Omniplex
Drayton Valley November 16
Rola Hogan-(403)542-7777-
Maureen Schwab-(403)542-5930-Drayton Valley

12th Annual Candian Agri-Marketing Association (CAMA) Awards
Hotel Fort Garry
Winnipeg, Manitoba November 17
Corie Arbuckle-(204)254-4192-Winnipeg, Manitoba

Alberta Irrigation Projects Association Annual Conference
Lethbridge Lodge
Lethbridge November 19-21
Verna Lees or Stan Klassen-(403)328-3063-Lethbridge

1995 Alberta Sheep Symposium
Capri Centre
Red Deer November 24-26
Wray Whitmore-(403)427-5380-Edmonton

100th Annual Western Stock Growers' Assocation Convention
Marlborough Inn
Calgary November 28-December 1
Pam Miller or Rhonda Clark-(403)250-9121-Calgary

Alberta Cattle Commission Annual General Meeting
Fantasyland Hotel
Edmonton December 4-6
Ron Glaser-(403)275-4400-Calgary

National Research Council 7th Annual Biotechnology Conference
Sheraton Centre
Montreal, Quebec December 4-6
Doris Ruest-(613)993-9228-Ottawa, Ontario

Alberta Pulse Growers Commission Annual Meeting
Fantasyland Hotel
Edmonton December 6-8
Janette McDonald Adam-(403)782-7838-Lacombe

Seed Growers Workshop
Olds College December 11-12
Bill Witbeck-(403)782-4641-Lacombe or (403)340-7152-Red Deer

1996

The Freedom to Profit – Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association Annual Convention
Regina Inn
Regina, Saskatchewan January 3-5
WCWA office-(306)586-5866-Regina, Saskatchewan;
Alberta office-(403)985-2282-Calmar

1996 Unifarm Annual Convention
Best Western Westwood Inn
Edmonton January 9-11
Shirley Dyck-(403)451-5912-Edmonton

Canada West Equipment Dealers Association Annual General Meeting and Convention
Westin Hotel
Edmonton January 11-13
William Lipsey-(403)250-7581-Calgary

Horse Breeders and Owners Conference
Capri Centre
Red Deer January 12-14
Les Burwash-(403)948-8532-Airdrie;
Bob Coleman-(403)427-5096-Edmonton

Alberta Cattle Feeders Association Annual Convention and Trade Show
Marlborough Inn
Calgary January 12-13
Ron Axelson-(403)250-2509-Calgary or
1-800-363-8598 (Alberta only)

Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants Annual Meeting
Westin Hotel
Edmonton January 18-20
Bill Witbeck-(403)782-4641-Lacombe

Banff Pork Seminar
The Banff Centre
Banff January 23-26
Judy Carss-(403)492-2343-Edmonton

Alberta Branch Canadian Seed Growers Association Annual Meeting
Westin Hotel
Edmonton January 30-February 1
Bill Witbeck-(403)782-4641-Lacombe or (403)340-7152-Red Deer

18th Annual Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP) Conference
Capri Centre
Red Deer January 30-February 1
Lynn Poole-1-800-387-6030-Alberta;
Doug Barlund-(403)556-4245-Olds

Doing Business On the Farm Trade Fair and Seminars
Camrose Regional Exhibition
Camrose February 21-22
Thom Shaw-(403)492-3885-Edmonton;
Wynn McLean-(403)672-3640; George
Rock-(403)986-8985-Leduc

1996 Conservation Workshop, Farm Progress Days and ACTS 18th Annual Meeting
Westerner Park
Red Deer February 22-24
Peter Gamache-(403)422-4385-Edmonton;
Russ Evans-(403)936-5306-Calgary;
Pat Kennedy-(403)347-4491-Red Deer

Grain World'96 – A Grains and Livestock Outlook
Westin Hotel
Winnipeg, Manitoba February 25-27
Rosa-Lynne Way-(204)984-2252-Winnipeg, Manitoba

Agriculture Week
Alberta March 3-10
Communications Division-(403)427-2127-Edmonton

5th Biennial Sulphur Markets – Today and Tomorrow International Symposium
Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City Hotel
Washington, D.C. March 27-29
Harold Weber-(202)331-9660-Washington, D.C.

Forest - Fish Conference: Land Management Practices Affecting Aquatic Ecosystems
Malborough Inn
Calgary May 1-4
Kerry Brewin-(403)221-8360-Calgary; or 1-800-909-6040

Agricultural Biotechnology Conference (ABIC'96)
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan June 11-14
The Signature Group-(306)934-1772-Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary July 5-14
Exhibition & Stampede office-(403)261-0101-Calgary; or
1-800-661-1260 (Canada & U.S.)

Western Stock Growers' Centennial Cattle Drive
Buffalo to Medicine Hat July 20-27
Rhonda Clark-(403)250-9121-Calgary

Coming agricultural events notice

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions **late in 1995 or in 1996**? Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the **name, city or town, and phone number** of a **contact person** for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization). **Please include your telephone number**:

Editor's Note: Alberta communities host a number of local fairs. Because there are so many, they are not listed here. However, an annual list of agricultural society fairs is compiled by the agricultural education and community services branch. The booklet is available by writing Alberta Agriculture Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Please quote Agdex 007.

Please return this form by* November 23, 1995 *to:

Agri-News Editor
Communications Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
FAX (403)427-2861

("Coming agricultural events" is published four times a year in **Agri-News**. The next list will be **December 4, 1995**)

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

OCT 5 1995

September 11, 1995

Remember elevator deductions are higher

While initial wheat payments look relatively attractive this year, producers should remember deductions at country elevators will be higher too says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"The end of the Crow rate and resulting changes to transportation policies mean elevators in Alberta will be taking off about $15 per tonne more this crop year," says Al Dooley of the market analysis and statistics branch.

Dooley notes that wheat markets moved lower through August even though a tight global supply situation remains. "However, the tight supply was the major influence of the Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) 1995-96 initial payments," he says.

"Initial payments for this crop year range about $50 more than the ones for last year," he adds.

For example, this year's No.1 CWRS initial payment was pegged at $160 per tonne (Vancouver/St. Lawrence) compared to $110 last year. [See table of summary]

Crop	1995-96 Initial Payment	1994-95 Initial Payment
No.1 CWRS	160	110
No.1 CPS-red	145	92
No.1 CWES	166	110
No.1 CWRW	145	99
No.1 CWSWS	145	92
CW Feed	122	80
No. 1 CWAD	165	125

The CWB's August Pool Return Outlook (PRO) didn't forecast any changes from the July PRO in its price prospects for wheat and durum.

Contact: *Al Dooley*
(403) 427-5387

Feed prices, dollar and early calf price peak

This year's calf run may be similar to the one in 1991 says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Prices will likely drop two to four cents per pound for average calves over the fall run. Low end calves will take an even larger price hit," says Doug Walkey.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Walkey also predicts feeder prices will likely peak early as buyers will be unsure of supply and quality. Feed prices and the Canadian dollar will be the biggest factors affecting calf prices. For example, a decline in feed price, perhaps caused by poor harvest weather, will support feeder prices. The opposite is also true. Good harvest weather may be detrimental to feeder prices.

"The exchange rate controls the import and export of feeder cattle and will have an effect as well," he adds. "Eastern Canadian politics, scheduled to heat up in October, may well drive the dollar down again. This would support prices for feeders as it makes our calves less expensive to the Americans and American calves more expensive for Alberta's feedlots."

On the fed cattle side, the overall trend is the down swing of the cycle. "The short-term outlook is for steady to slightly stronger prices from lighter seasonal deliveries and good retail demand," says Walkey. He forecasts support at the $63 level in the October contract and near $64.50 in the November contract.

Contact: Doug Walkey
(403) 427-4011

Lentils lead special crop prospects

Canada will again be the major global contributor to the export lentil market giving high grade lentils prices the most "up" potential of all the special crops group says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"This optimism is based on the fact that both Canada and the U.S. are expected to show marked production declines and that there are reports of quality concerns in Turkey," says Matthew Machielse of the market analysis and statistics branch.

"The next couple of weeks are critical in determining what Canadian quality will be like and subsequent price supports," he adds.

Machielse says there continues to be a very positive outlook as the peak shipping season for most special crops starts. Attractive price levels are available. Quality concerns will set the stage for price rallies in lentil, mustard, pea and canary seed markets.

"Comparisons to both last year and the five-year average suggest current bids offer profitable return levels. Profitable return levels are a signal that some sales should be made. The simple lack of negative market news also recommends storage or deferred pricing on a portion of new crop at this early date," he advises.

Exchange rate levels may become a more important price signal in special crops and other markets as the Quebec referendum approaches. "Forage seed markets are particularly vulnerable to fluctuations in the Canada-U.S. exchange rate," notes Machielse.

About 80 per cent of Canada's forage seed exports go to the U.S. Higher exchange rates will have a direct impact on expected farmgate values. "Producers who hold large inventories of forage seeds should investigate currency coverage through the options market," recommends Machielse.

Currently, clover prices are more positive than those for fescue, timothy and brome grass. "Before harvest many grass seed markets were showing signs of some welcome strengthening," he notes. "However, a number of factors such as weather and production have changed the market mood."

For example, poor haying weather delayed the processed forage industry enough to push the traditional swing acreage from forage to seed. This unexpected turn reduced a previously optimistic price outlook to a lower bias. "Common timothy is currently carrying quite a discount to Climax and will likely weigh on that market as well. After reaching 30 cents per pound earlier, producers are more likely looking at 25 cents going into fall," he says.

Red clover had been quoted at the 40 cent level with good potential to go higher in the near future. Alsike clover benefitted from some spill over support and was in the 30 to 35 cent per pound range in late August.

For more information, contact Machielse in Edmonton at (403) 427-4011. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Matthew Machielse
(403) 427-4011

Looking at hog prices from a spike

Looking at the world from the top of the price spike can be an exciting experience, but while there's a pretty view from the top, the journey is only downhill from there.

That's the description market analyst Doug Walkey of Alberta Agriculture gives to the current hog market. From summer highs, the price trend is down as increased hog supplies come to market.

Over the past five years the average drop in Alberta Index 100 hog prices between mid-August and mid-November has been 27 cents per kilogram (dressed). "If you consider end of August prices of $1.75 as the price spike and follow the trend, then the late November price would be around $1.45 or less," he says.

Walkey projects September prices to average $1.42/kg, October's to hit $1.38, November's at $1.42 and December to

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rebound to $1.49. All of his forecasts are based on a 73.5 cent Canadian dollar against its U.S. counterpart.

While selling into a falling market could be a downhill journey, Walkey says strategies are straight forward, but take confidence and initiative. He suggests three actions. One, to consider shortening the feeding period as much as possible. Two, to consider some price locking mechanism. Third, to delay buying breeding stock.

Contact: *Doug Walkey*
(403) 427-4011

Safely preserving your taste of summer

Whether from your own garden or someone else's, preserving the bounty of summer brings at least one question — what to do with the produce — says an Alberta Agriculture foods and nutrition specialist.

"Food safety should be a priority," says Suzanne Tenold. "It's important to use the best techniques and proper equipment.

"There are also concerns about storage and economics of buying a particular thing in season and not wanting to waste anything or throw anything out because it's spoiled," she adds.

Tenold recommends thinking ahead before buying produce to preserve or dealing with produce from your own garden. "Consider storage space, how much time you have, what equipment is available and what information you need to preserve the food the way you want it done," she says.

Second, review what you need to know about the preservation method you want to use. Canning and freezing are the most common preservation methods. In each case, there are some basic procedures that have to be understood and followed in order to finish with a safe and good quality product. [See separate story on methods.]

"If you're unsure about part of the method, such as the time to process or even how to get started, find out **before** you buy the produce or begin to prepare it," urges Tenold.

Information is available from many sources. Books that are current, clearly written and give important details about proper food preservation methods are on the market. Several organizations and companies specialize in food preservation information.

All Alberta Agriculture district offices have the names and telephone number of companies and organizations you can call and the names of reference books about food preservation.

"Call **before** you start. That's better than trying to deal with a problem or get a question answered when your jelly is cooking or pickles are in the jar," she advises.

Another source of food safety information is the *Food Safety Info Line*. The line is open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. through 6 p.m. In the Calgary area, call 287-0098. Consumers in the rest of the province can call the line toll-free at 1-800-892-8333.

For more information, contact Tenold in Airdrie at (403) 948-8504 or Linda St. Onge in Edmonton at (403) 427-2412. Government numbers are toll free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Suzanne Tenold*
(403) 948-8504

Canning and freezing basics explained

Although canning or freezing produce sounds simple, there are some basic rules to follow so you preserve vegetables and fruits safely and get a high quality product says an Alberta Agriculture foods and nutrition specialist.

There are two basic methods of canning — pressure processing and water bath. "Much of the preparation for both is the same," notes Suzanne Tenold. For example, in each case use jars designed for canning.

As well, select jars according to the type of canner you have, the portion size you need, the type of product you're canning and how you'll use it. Wash jars well. Sterilizing isn't necessary if a water bath or pressure canner will be used.

Metal lids with compound seals are recommended. "These must always be out of the box. Never reuse metal lids," stresses Tenold. However, simmer the lids in hot water before placing them on the filled jars. This softens the sealing compound and ensures a good seal. Once placed on the jar, screw bands need only be twisted finger-tip tight. "No further twisting should be needed. Don't tighten after processing," she adds.

Finally, any jars that haven't sealed after 12 hours should be refrigerated and the contents eaten within three days, or be reprocessed immediately using new lids.

Water bath canning is used mostly for high acid foods such as fruits. It's also suggested for jams, jellies and pickles as extra insurance in destroying micro-organisms that will spoil the product.

"Remember that the size of jar depends on the height of canner used. A small canner, for example, may only handle pint jars. The canner should be high enough to allow two inches of water **above** the tops of the jars during processing. This creates pressure on the top of the jar and helps seal the lid," she explains.

Have water boiling in the canner and ready for the filled jars. Be careful not to overfill the canner with water to prevent spilling when the jars are added. Have a kettle boiling and ready to supply the extra water needed to cover the jars with two inches of water to ensure a seal.

Cont'd on page 4

Begin timing once the water in the canner comes to a full boil. Most processing time recommendations are for sea level. Times must be increased for altitudes over 305 m (1,000 ft.) for water bath canning and pressure increased for pressure processing.

Pressure processing is the recommended canning method for low acid foods such as vegetables. "Meats and fish must also be pressure canned, but freezing is preferable from a safety standpoint," notes Tenold.

"Pressure canning takes more time, but it's necessary time," she adds. Food spoilage organisms found on low acid foods aren't easily destroyed at boiling water temperatures. Increasing pressure increases the temperature inside the jars to a point that kills spores that could grow and produce hazardous toxins.

"Don't rush the process," she stresses. "Process the jars for the specified length of time and allow the canner to cool on its own. Cooling too quickly draws liquid from the jars and breaks the seals."

Tenold recommends people become very familiar with their pressure canner. Read the directions that come with the canner and ask questions if uncertain about what they say.

"Also remember all foods that are pressure canned must be boiled for 10 to 15 minutes before you use them," she adds.

For safety reasons, freezing is the preservation method of choice. Most food must be blanched before freezing. This means placing it in boiling water for a very short time, then dipping in ice water to stop the heating process. This process destroys the enzymes that ripen the food. It also enhances the color in many foods. Blanching times vary, so should be checked.

"Whether you simply package and freeze the food, or blanch and then freeze, it's important to store the food in freezer tight containers or packages," says Tenold.

Freezing foods doesn't kill micro-organisms. It only stops their growth until the temperature warms up.

Contact:	*Suzanne Tenold*	*Linda St. Onge*
	(403) 948-8504	*(403) 427-2412*

Harvesting apples to store

If you grow apples, pears and plums, an Alberta Agriculture specialist has some harvesting and storage tips for you.

"Apples, pears and plums can all be picked before they are fully ripe, an advantage when growing these fruits in our climate," says Shelley Barkley of the Crop Diversification Centre, South in Brooks.

"For long-term storage, apples should be picked before they are fully ripe," she adds. Once an apple's skin changes from grass green to light yellow and the seeds are brown, apples are ready. The apple's flesh will also have changed, from tough and pulpy to crispy and juicy. The fruit will also separate easily from its spur.

Apples can be stored in open plastic bags at 4°C. "Whatever you do, don't store apples and carrots together," she warns. "Apples give off ethylene and cause carrots to become bitter."

Pears can be picked while they are still firm, their skin has changed from dark green to light green, and their lenticals are prominent. "Then put the pears into storage or in the fridge for one to two weeks. This cold treatment helps the fruit ripen and improves quality," she says.

After this cold treatment, leave pears at room temperature to ripen she adds.

Plums will continue to ripen after they have been picked from the tree. "You can pick plums once they are slightly soft and the skin has a waxy bloom," says Barkley.

For more information on harvesting fruits and vegetables, contact Barkley in Brooks at (403) 362-3391. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Shelley Barkley*
(403) 362-3391

Leaders learn in Montana

Eight Alberta 4-H leaders have just returned from a Montana leadership congress.

"Alberta leaders have been making this trip for the last 21 years. It's an opportunity to expand their leadership skills," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H programs specialist.

This year's group were Carol Arntzen of Sedgewick, Paula Bowal of Ohaton, Earl Dunn of Diamond City, Pat Fries of Fort Saskatchewan, Deb Holt of Lloydminster, Dale Smith of Valleyview, Sharon Uhrich of Airdrie and Rosemarie Wisniewski of Hairy Hill. They were selected by their regional 4-H councils to attend the annual Montana Leaders' Forum.

"The forum experience includes educational workshops, sharing information with Montana leaders and learning skills that can be used at home," notes Stark.

The forum was Sept. 8 and 9 in Billings, Montana. The Alberta delegation returned home on Sept. 10.

TransAlta Utilities and Alberta Power sponsor this leader development program.

Contact: *Marguerite Stark*
(403) 948-8510

Carol Arntzen	*Paula Bowal*	*Earl Dunn*
(403) 384-2180	*(403) 663-2285*	*(403) 381-4773*
Pat Fries	*Deb Holt*	*Dale Smith*
(403) 998-1230	*(403) 875-8485*	*(403) 525-3301*
Sharon Uhrich	*Rosemarie Wisniewski*	
(403) 948-3482	*(403) 768-2272*	

Agri-News briefs

Canola prospects reasonable

An Alberta Agriculture market analyst predicts canola futures will trade in a $375 to $425 per tonne range over much of the coming season. "That's assuming the Canadian crop is harvested without frost problems," says Al Dooley of the market analysis and statistics branch. Dooley says these price prospects are "reasonably favorable" despite the large global supply. Currency relationships to the Japanese yen have worsened from an exporter's perspective, but from an historic point of view, the Canadian product still isn't expensive. China may not be a big factor in the canola market this year because of its own large production. Alberta farmers may be reluctant sellers. "After two years of exceptional prices, farmers won't be quick to sell at much below $8/bu.," says Dooley. "Basis levels have been extremely variable between companies. Shopping around will pay dividends this year as always," he adds. For more information, contact Dooley in Edmonton at (403) 427-5347. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Outlook for feedgrains

Nearby barley futures will likely trade between $115 and $130 per tonne over much of the season forecasts an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "Likely trade will be at the high end of that range," says Al Dooley. "Harvest pressure may weigh down values, but farmers will be reluctant to sell given the strong wheat market, respectable canola values and general bullish feedgrain outlook," he adds. Oats futures also are favorable. Dooley says a range of $150 to $170 per tonne isn't out of the question. For more information, contact Dooley in Edmonton at (403) 427-5347. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Southern Alberta Disaster Recovery Program deadline Sept. 15

September 15 is the deadline for farmers to apply for assistance from the Southern Alberta Disaster Recovery Program's agricultural component. The agricultural component only covers overland flooding. Payments, to a maximum of $100,000, will be made to restore farm operations to pre-flood condition. Property must be within the program boundaries. Maps are available at Alberta Agriculture district offices. To date, 312 applications have been approved For more information, call Grant Clarke or Wayne Goruk at 1-800-232-9479.

Growing for profit seminar Sept. 16

Blooming Prairie's next *Growing for Profit* seminar will be Sept. 16. The morning seminar covers growing flowers and grains for the drieds market. The cost is $35 per person. Information packages are included in the registration fee. Information packages can also be purchased for $20 plus GST. They're also available on computer disk for $15. Write Blooming Prairie at 10328 University Ave., Edmonton, AB, T6E 4P4, fax (403) 433-6440 or call (403) 431-1451. The same information is also available free on Internet at http://www.supernet.ab.ca/mall/business/grower/prairie/blooming.htm. For more information, contact Katie Benschop at (403) 431-1451.

Two Alberta 4-Hers receive FCC scholarships

Two Albertans are among the 16 Canadian 4-H members who won $1,000 post-secondary scholarships from the Farm Credit Corporation (FCC). They are Julie Hadwin of Consort and Sheldon Nadeau of Fort Macleod. Scholarship winners had to write an essay on one of three agricultural topics. Hadwin's topic was why support rural Canada and Nadeau wrote about the importance of agriculture. Winning essays are available by request. For more information, contact Martine Noël in Regina at (306) 780-8614.

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AGRI-NEWS

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Manual outlines standard practice for meat processors

Alberta Agriculture has published a manual outlining the regulations and technology needed for safe, efficient abattoirs and meat processing facilities.

Meat Processing Facilities in Alberta: Regulations-Technology-Design is a manual of standard practice for Alberta processors says John Kienholz, an Alberta Agriculture mechanical engineering technologist and the manual's contributing editor.

"Its purpose is to help planners and operators of meat processing facilities meet or exceed requirements set out in permits, acts, codes, regulations and standards," he adds. "It also clarifies characteristics of facility design and operation."

The manual is divided into three key sections related to planning a meat processing facility. The first describes minimum regulatory requirements plus an optional higher level of recommended practices. Part two outlines sound planning and layout principles. Part three describes typical quality construction methods.

One reason for the manual was to assist Alberta abattoirs and meat processing facilities keep up with changing standards and regulations. A chart in the manual outlines regulatory documents required for developing, building and operating a meat processing facility. The chart also lists the issuing agencies.

"To be sustainable and competitive in the marketplace, facilities must run their operations at world standards for sanitation, food safety, environment, animal well-being and people safety. Compliance with standards is essential for today's industries," he says.

The manual provides a systematic approach to these concerns. Principles of food hygiene, environmental guidelines and occupational safety are outlined in the manual.

The manual can be purchased for $50 plus $3.50 GST. This price includes shipping and handling.

Albertans interested in the manual can purchase it from the Alberta Meat Processors Association by writing #13, 22215 Wye Road, Sherwood Park, Alberta, T6G 1C8. Make cheques payable to the Alberta Meat Processors Association. The association's telephone number is (403)922-6006.

Orders from outside the province should be sent to Kienholz. Make cheques payable to the Provincial Treasurer and send to Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Engineering Services Branch, #201, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Kienholz can be contacted by (403)427-2181 or by faxing (403)438-3362.

Contact: John Kienholz
(403)427-2181

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Alberta's FBMI courses produce results

After its first three years, extensive evaluations show Canada/Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI) programs are making an impact.

"Farmer participants said they got practical information they could take home and use immediately from the courses. Over 90 per cent reported they made changes to how they handle production, marketing or financial management," notes Anita Lunden, provincial FBMI co-ordinator.

"The report contains other positives," she adds. "Besides helping farmers to improve their operations, FBMI is filling gaps in training needs, training trainers and using partnerships in program delivery."

Over the three years, more than 9,400 individuals participated in over 12,500 FBMI programs. Program content was diverse covering marketing, estate planning, computers, environmental law, human resource management and cost-of-production. Participants also expressed a high overall level of satisfaction with their FBMI program experience.

Part of their satisfaction can be attributed to program trainers. "To ensure our instructors are top quality, FBMI provides skills and subject matter training to keep instructors on top of new developments," notes Lunden.

The evaluation report also pointed out FBMI programming is meeting a need not met by other agencies. FBMI program representatives did a survey and found few other government or private agencies were conducting farm business management training.

Successful joint partnerships were also highlighted in the evaluation. Survey respondents suggested the partnership between provincial and federal governments, universities, agricultural colleges and private enterprise allowed programs to be delivered efficiently and effectively targeted training needs without duplicating programs.

"Increasing repeat participants is our goal this year," says Lunden. "In our first three years, 23 per cent of participants took more than one course. We'd like to see the number of repeat participants rise, while still attracting new learners.

"To do this, we must offer more advanced level information, so participants can learn at the level they require," she adds.

Another aim is to diversify program delivery methods to meet the needs of learning styles and geography of Alberta's producers. Currently, the feasibility of high tech resources and delivery methods are being studied. "This technology is very expensive and we want to make sure we're spending our dollars wisely," says Lunden.

The evaluation report's executive summary is available by contacting Lunden in Olds at (403)556-4240.

Contact: *Anita Lunden*
(403)556-4278

August cool, wet and dry

While this August was cooler than normal, precipitation varied from drier than normal to wetter than normal says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

"Cool temperatures are the real agricultural news," says Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch. "Below normal heat units in August may delay the harvest even further, increasing the risk of encountering fall frost."

Since April 1, south, central and northwest regions reported heat units about 10 per cent below normal. "This is like having two weeks less in the growing season," he notes.

The northeast was only five per cent below normal or about one week behind. The Peace region reported normal heat units.

The average monthly temperature for August was 13.8°C, two degrees below the long term average of 15.8°C. This average, and the one for precipitation, are based on data recorded at 59 Environment Canada climate stations across the province.

Medicine Hat reported the warmest monthly mean temperature of 17.6°C "That was still one and a half degrees below the normal average temperature of 19.1°C," notes Dzikowski.

"There was a mixed bag of precipitation," he says. "It was drier than normal in the Peace and parts of southwestern Alberta, but wetter than normal for the rest of the province.

"It averaged out as wetter than normal," he adds. The province's 59 climate stations averaged 66.6 mm of precipitation, 11.7 mm above the 1961 to 1990 average.

The wettest part of Alberta was the central region where amounts of 75 to 150 mm, or 100 to 250 per cent of normal were reported. The southern region reported between 20 and 60 mm, about 60 to 180 per cent of normal. The driest area was the Peace region, reporting between 25 and 60 mm, 40 to 90 per cent of normal.

In agricultural areas, Cold Lake received the most precipitation during August reporting 152.6 mm or 222 per cent of its long term average. On the dry side, High Level received only 24 mm or 43 per cent of its normal. Grande Prairie received only 25.4 mm, 41 per cent of normal.

On a seasonal note, the total April through August average temperature was below normal and the precipitation total was near normal. "But averages don't tell the whole story," he notes.

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Agri-News briefs

WGTTP deadline extended to Nov. 1

Prairie landowners have another six weeks to send in their applications for the $1.6 billion Western Grain Transition Payments Program. Federal agricultural minister Ralph Goodale has extended the application deadline from Sept. 15 to Nov. 1. In spite of the extension, Goodale urges eligible applicants to send in their forms as soon as possible to avoid distribution delays. Payments are based on eligible acres, land productivity and distance from the ports of Vancouver and Thunder Bay. In the case of rented land, landowners must reach an equitable agreement with their lessees regarding the transition payment. Landowners who haven't received an application form or who need more information, can call 1-800-667-9962.

Agripulp workshop proceedings available

Proceedings from the *Alberta Agripulp Workshop* are now available for $35. Workshop sessions discussed why straw may soon be worth more than the grain. Topics covered include Alberta's straw supply, agrifibre utilization potential, the agricultural potential of hemp, a mechanical pulping process for straw, paper and board product industries in Alberta and environmental implications of agripulp. To order by mail, write Clear Lake Ltd, 4310-97 Street, Edmonton, AB, T6E 5R9 or fax (403)434-8144. For more information, call (403)448-1858.

Straw to Gold'95 Oct. 23-26 in Winnipeg

What's done with straw around the globe is one of the sessions at *Straw to Gold Symposium'95* Oct. 23 through 26 in Winnipeg. The symposium's focus is innovative uses for crop residues. Also on the agenda are technologies ready to be commercialized and resources. Two tours are available. One is Oct. 23 and goes to a straw-based particle board operation in North Dakota. A flax straw procurement and processing tour is scheduled for Oct. 26. Full registration before Sept. 20 is $200 and $250 after Sept. 20. Registration is transferable. For more information, call (204)945-4529 or fax (204)945-6134.

Soil Conservation Award nominations open

Nominations for a farm family, producer group or industry leader in soil conservation are now open. The 6th annual Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) Soil Conservation Awards nomination deadline is Oct. 15. The awards recognize outstanding achievement and leadership in soil conservation. Nomination forms are available from Alberta Agriculture district and regional offices, Agricultural Service board offices and the ACTS office at Box 1, Site 9, R.R.5, Calgary, AB, T2P 2G6. For more information, call (403)936-5306 or fax (403)936-5523.

April and May weather was cool with near normal precipitation. June temperatures were above normal, followed by below normal temperatures in July and August.

The season's precipitation also varied by region. Parts of southern Alberta were very wet with up to 610 mm reported. That's about double the norm. Cardston reported 608.7 mm, 203 per cent of normal while Pincher Creek received 579.1 mm, 199 per cent of normal. The northern Peace and northeast regions were dry, receiving 135 to 280 mm of precipitation, between 50 and 100 per cent of normal.

For more information, contact Dzikowski in Edmonton at (403)422-4385. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Peter Dzikowski
(403)422-4385

New Marketing Council general manager named

Brian Rhiness has been appointed general manager of the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council.

Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister, made the announcement. The appointment was effective September 1."Mr. Rhiness has a very strong working relationship with the boards and commissions the council supervises," says Mr. Paszkowski, "and he brings a wealth of knowledge about national and international agriculture and marketing issues to the job."

Rhiness has been with Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development for 13 years. He was projects and policy manager for over three years before becoming acting general manager on January 1, 1995. Previously, he was a provincial dairy specialist.

The Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council is a Crown corporation established by the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act. It is responsible for overseeing the operations and facilitating the establishment of agricultural marketing boards and commissions. Currently 16 producer commodity groups operate boards or commissions in the province.

"At present, the Marketing Council is putting much of its energies into the evolution of the organizations and exploring ways to reduce costs," says Rhiness. "One related priority is using alternate dispute resolution techniques to solve industry differences.

"The Council is working together with the boards and commissions, and the entire industries they serve, to shape their futures," he adds.

Contact: Brian Hlus/Ron Glen – Executive Assistants to the minister at (403)427-2137
Brian Rhiness at (403)427-2164

Oct. dates for greenhouse vegetable workshops

Beginning growers and producers who already produce greenhouse vegetables can learn more at one of two workshops scheduled for early October.

The first workshop is Oct. 4 at the Medicine Hat College campus in Brooks. The second is a week later, Oct. 11, at the Crop Diversification Centre, North in Edmonton.

"Information will be presented on all aspects of producing seedless cucumbers, tomatoes and peppers," says Mohyuddin Mirza, greenhouse extension specialist at the Crop Diversification Centre, North.

"The workshops are designed for both beginners and growers already in the business," he adds.

The workshops are organized by Alberta Agriculture horticulture unit staff in co-operation with the Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association.

Pre-registration is required by Oct. 3. The cost is $50 per person plus GST. Cheques can be made payable to the Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association.

For registration forms and other information, contact Mirza at (403)422-1789 or write Crop Diversification Centre, North, R.R.6, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 4K3, or Jim Calpas at (403)362-3391 in Brooks or write Crop Diversification Centre, South, S.S.4, Brooks, Alberta, T1R 1E6.

Contact: Dr. M. Mirza Jim Calpas
(403)422-1789 (403)362-3391

How to harvest not-so-familiar garden products

Eggplants with a glossy shine are ready to harvest is one tip an Alberta Agriculture specialist has for people who might have grown a vegetable they've never tried before.

"Growing fruits and vegetables that aren't run-of-the-mill may be easier than knowing when to harvest them," says Shelley Barkley of the Crop Diversification Centre, South in Brooks.

"As summer passes many gardeners start asking when they should harvest things such as eggplant and varieties of squash and melons," she adds.

When an eggplant has a glossy shine, cut the stem with a pair of sharp pruning shears or a knife. Leave part of the stem on the fruit. Eggplant can be stored in the refrigerator for eight to 10 days.

Harvest horseradish when the tops are killed by a hard frost. Dig the roots and store them in airtight bags in the fridge.

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"With cold storage you can keep horseradish for up to a year," she notes.

Jerusalem artichokes can also be dug after the tops are killed by frost. "However, unlike horseradish, leave the tubers in the ground as long as possible," she suggest. "The tubers can also be left in the ground over the winter and harvested before the new growth starts in the spring," she adds.

Once dug up, wash and allow the artichokes to dry. Then store in airtight black plastic bags in the refrigerator or root cellar.

Dry beans can be harvested when the pods mature. Pods can be picked off the plants, or once leaves turn yellow the plants can be pulled and pods plucked from the plants. Dry pods in a clean area. Once dry, shell and store the beans in airtight containers.

"With its change to orange, the traditional Halloween pumpkin may be one of the easiest fruits to identify as ready," says Barkley. The rind will be a deep solid orange with a hard skin. Cut the pumpkin from the vine with a knife or pruners leaving a 7.5 to 10 cm stem.

"You can also harvest pumpkins once their skin starts to turn orange," she adds. Then, set the fruit in a warm area to ripen. Avoid piling higher that three pumpkins. Also avoid cold concrete floors. Pumpkins will store for two to three months at seven to 10°C.

When a muskmelon is ready it also has changed color, from green to tan or from yellow to tan. As well, when the stem breaks cleanly away from the fruit with light pressure, it's ready to pick. Fruit won't ripen any further. Muskmelon will last in the fridge for up to two weeks.

"While watermelon doesn't sound like a typical Alberta fruit, it can be grown here," says Barkley. Watermelon is ready to harvest when tendrils near the stem become dry and brown. Cut mature fruit from the vine with a pair of sharp pruning shears or a knife.

"The melon will also have a dull, hollow sound when rapped with your knuckles," she notes. "The best time to try the rapping test is in the morning because all melons sound hollow later in the day."

Color is also important when picking ornamental gourds. "Before you pick you have to know what kind of gourd you're growing," says Barkley. Harvest the bright yellow flowered *Ovifera* gourds when the color has changed completely. *Lagenacia* gourds have scented white flowers. These gourds should be harvested when they are tan colored and light weight.

Wash newly harvested gourds in warm soapy water and dry with a soft cloth. Cure in a warm room for four to six weeks. "While curing, turn the gourds regularly. Make sure they don't touch each other," she says.

If a gourd begins to mold, wash it, dry it and try curing again. Once gourds are dry, they can be varnished.

Barkley says summer squash should be picked when the fruit is small and before the skin hardens. It will keep two weeks when stored at between seven and 10°C. Winter squash, on the other hand will last six months when stored at this temperature. Winter squash is harvested when its skin can't be broken easily by pushing it with your thumbnail.

Contact: *Shelley Barkley*
(403)362-3391

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Those autumn leaves, and needles too

Don't panic if your evergreens are dropping needles this fall advises an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Just as deciduous trees shed leaves in the autumn, so will your cedar, spruce and pine trees," says Shelley Barkley of the Crop Diversification Centre, South in Brooks.

Often the process isn't noticed because it's so gradual. Needles on the outside of the plant conceal inside needles turning yellow, brown and then falling off she explains. "However, sometimes many needles discolor all at once and people think their tree is dying," she notes.

Stress can be one cause of more needles dropping than usual adds Barkley. This needle loss is permanent. Possible stresses are drought, poorly drained soils, transplant shock or spider mites.

Barkley recommends keeping evergreens as healthy as possible with proper watering and insect control. "While needle shed is natural, you should always check for signs of disease and insects. If you're unsure, consult a horticulturist," she advises.

Needle shed is more obvious on pine trees than other evergreens. This is because the needles grow in bundles. Instead of dropping one needle at a time, they drop in bunches.

Cedars and some junipers have scale-like leaves covering branchlets instead of needles. These trees will drop entire branchlets.

Each type of evergreen has its own schedule and way of shedding their needles. Scotch, lodgepole and Austrian pines hold their needles for three to four years. Spruce and fir hold their needles longer. Spruce, for example, hold their needles for up to six or seven years.

For more information, contact Barkley in Brooks at (403)362-3391. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Shelley Barkley*
(403)362-3391

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AGRI-NEWS

September 25, 1995

Livestock stats show Alberta Advantage

Record growth in Alberta's cattle industry is one example of how the *Alberta Advantage* contributes to a flourishing livestock sector says the province's agriculture minister.

"Our large, top quality feed grain production base, competitive grain prices, efficient world class slaughtering plants and proximity to the densely populated western United States are all factors," says Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's minister.

Alberta's cattle industry has steadily expanded since 1987 and set a new industry record high this year. As of the July 1 estimate, there were more than 5.8 million head of cattle and calves on Alberta farms. "This is more than three times the provincial total of 1950," notes livestock statistican Reynold Jaipaul of the market analysis and statistics branch. The branch jointly prepared the July 1, 1995 livestock inventory estimates with Statistics Canada.

Beef cow numbers are equally impressive, increasing by 5.5 per cent over 1994. They topped two million head for the first time in 1995. "This is more than the entire provincial cattle herd in 1950," he adds.

Alberta accounts for almost 39 per cent of the Canadian cattle herd and 53 per cent of the Western Canadian cattle and calf population. Saskatchewan is second at just under three million head and Ontario is third at 2.2 million head.

"Alberta's herd expansion is greater than the North American rate," says market specialist Doug Walkey. "Combined North American expansion has increased beef meat supplies three to four per cent over the past year. As a result, prices have dropped and consumption has increased modestly.

"Those trends are expected to continue for the next two years," adds Walkey.

Provincial hog and sheep inventories also are higher in 1995 than they were last year says Jaipaul.

Alberta is also Canada's leading sheep producer with just under one-third of the total national flock. The July 1, 1995 estimate was 264,000 head, up 5.6 per cent from 1994.

"Attractive lamb prices related to low supplies are encouraging sheep production," says Walkey. "Projections for 1996 are for increasing Canadian numbers."

Alberta is third in Canadian hog production behind Ontario and Quebec. Both those provinces have hog populations of over three million.

Alberta's July 1, 1995 hog population is estimated at 1.9 million, up by just over one per cent from 1994. Much of the

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

growth was in market hog inventory. Breeding stock also posted a slight gain.

"As with the cattle market, there's also a North America wide hog expansion," notes Walkey. "Active retail sales and strong export trade this year have prevented large accumulations of meat stocks. Prices have been volatile, yet attractive enough that sow herd numbers haven't fallen dramatically. Breeding stock populations will be steady or perhaps increase slightly next year."

Contact:	*Reynold Jaipaul*	*Doug Walkey*
	(403)427-4011	*(403)782-3301*

Consumers ate more meat in '94

For the first time in recent memory the demand for meat increased in 1994 notes an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Per capita consumption rose for all major meat groups in Canada," says Joe Rowbottom of the market analysis and statistics branch. "Both Agriculture and AgriFood Canada and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) are predicting further increases in per capita meat consumption for all major meats in 1995."

While this is positive, producers have to look deeper into this year's increase to see why demand increased, and whether increased demand translates into more dollars in their pockets.

For example, per capita poultry consumption has risen steadily since the mid-1970s while real prices have dropped. This has kept the per capita demand (price times quantity) relatively consistent over time. [See figure 2, Alberta real retail meat prices].

In the case of beef and pork, demand has dropped off mainly because of lower per capita consumption. However, the main issue affecting all types of meat is that consumers are spending less money in real terms on meat.

"In 1974, Albertans spent about $700 on major meats. By 1994, their meat spending fell to just over $400. Fortunately," notes Rowbottom, "per capita spending was offset by a growing population and expanded export markets. Otherwise livestock producers could have experienced much more negative effects in the last two decades."

Two probable causes for last year's per capita increase are a change in consumer tastes or lower prices. "If it's the former, we could see a shift in the demand curve that could positively and permanently affect the meat sector. If it's the latter, it may just show a move down the existing demand curve," he explains.

Shifts in the demand curve are particularly important for beef producers he adds, because beef producers are less equipped to lower their production costs relative to pork and poultry. Poultry producers have proven they can produce more with less and pork producers are closely following suit. Beef producers have taken significant strides, but may need to do more.

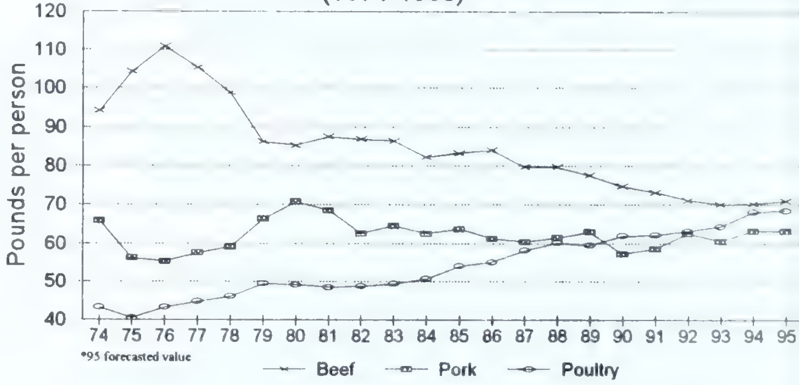
"The bottom line for all meat producers is to produce a product consumers want and will purchase at a price that's profitable for producers," he adds. "This is a function of both quality and price. Lowering costs is an important part of the equation, but it's not the only part."

Contact: *Joe Rowbottom*
(403)427-4011

Figure-1

Canadian Per Capita Consumption

(1974-1995)

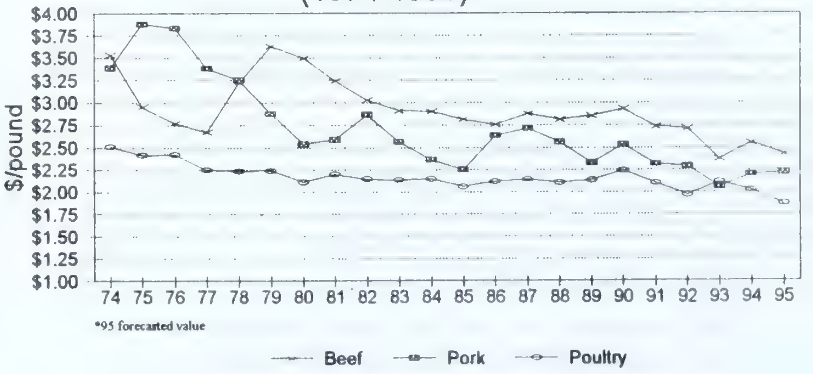


*95 forecasted value

Figure-2

Alberta Real Retail Meat Prices

(1974-1995)

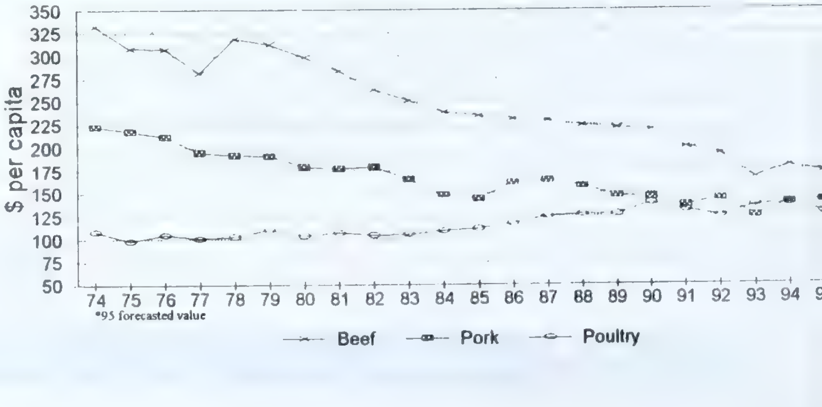


*95 forecasted value

Figure-3

Major Meat Demand

(per capita consumption * real price)



*95 forecasted value

Add safety to harvest

As farmers make adjustments to their harvest machinery, they should also set their attitude to safety.

"Throughout the years, harvest has proven to be the most dangerous time of year on Alberta farms," says Eric Jones, Alberta Agriculture farm safety specialist.

Last year was a particularly lethal example. While overall farm fatalities decreased by 32 per cent in 1994, seven out of the 15 deaths occurred during the harvest months of September, October and November.

"Typically pressures of the season tend to be a factor in farm accidents," notes Jones. "Bringing off a crop and coping with weather, breakdowns and fatigue is stressful. However, there's a lot more stress in losing a life or a limb."

Jones reminds farmers to take regular breaks. This means stopping to eat meals or take brief coffee breaks, plus getting adequate rest at night.

Another important safety rule is to shut off and shut down equipment before checking for such things as plugs and other equipment problems. Farm machinery has consistently been the leading cause of farm deaths. As well, slightly more fatalities occur in farm fields than in farm yards.

"The few seconds it takes to shut off a machine can be your key to preventing an injury or something more serious," says Jones.

Contact: Eric Jones
(403)427-2171

Lights...camera...farm safety

Rural Alberta teens have an opportunity to become radio or television producers for a day, qualify for scholarships and prizes worth $12,000 and in the process help save lives on Alberta farms.

Their chance for both fame and fortune is the second annual *It Can Happen to Me* farm safety campaign. Campaign partners UFA, CBC Alberta News and Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program invite teens to produce a 30-second television or radio commercial that promotes farm safety to teenagers.

"The program is designed to help teens be more aware of hazards on the farm by writing and producing commercials," says Jacqueline Galloway, Alberta Agriculture farm safety consultant.

"Instead of developing a farm safety message for teens ourselves, this campaign invites teens to produce a message for their peers," she adds. "The message speaks louder and is more effective teen-to-teen."

As an incentive, UFA is offering $6,000 in post-secondary scholarships for the winning entries, plus everyone who enters receives a campaign T-shirt. Winners' schools also receive prizes. Even more exciting, is that the top safety messages will be professionally produced and then aired by CBC.

Last year's *The Way We See It* program exceeded everyone's expectations. Campaign partners expect even more from this campaign.

"We're thrilled to be involved again," says Jim Watt of UFA. "The response was outstanding both in terms of the number of entries and the high quality ideas and concepts they portrayed."

CBC Alberta News was equally impressed with the first joint campaign. "It's a wonderful opportunity to work with partners towards saving lives on Alberta farms in a very interesting and effective way," says Bob McLaughlin, executive producer of CBC Alberta News.

"Last year's tremendous success was one reason the campaign partners decided to expand the contest," says Galloway. Junior high students are now eligible to participate. As well, a radio commercial category has been added. Scholarships will be awarded for first and second prize in the television and radio categories.

"*It Could Happen to Me* really demonstrates how partnerships are the backbone of the farm safety program," she adds. "With corporate sponsors and enthusiastic response from young Albertans, our program can accomplish a lot more."

Some 240 young Albertans made nearly 70 commercials for last year's *The Way We See It* campaign. They came from 30 different rural communities.

"All of us hope that the expanded contest will bring in even more entries and involve even more Alberta teens," says Watt.

"The more people who are involved, the better," adds Galloway. "Every teen who makes a commercial is reminded farm accidents happen and could happen to them."

"We also see the safety message and benefits of the campaign reaching beyond the teens who participate to the farm community and population in general when the winning commercials are aired on CBC television and radio," says McLaughlin.

Teens interested in the program should contact their school or local UFA outlet for more information.

Contact: Jacqueline Galloway
(403)427-2171
Jim Watt
(403)258-4508
Brian Gray
(403)468-2352

Field variability important when soil sampling

Variable crop production across the province this year points out the importance of soil testing says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

A field's soil test levels can vary with the current year's crop production, growing season precipitation and the field's landscape features. "Fall soil nitrogen levels are related to the crop yield level," says Len Kryzanowski, a crop nutrition agronomist.

High crop yields remove greater quantities of soil and fertilizer nutrients than poor crop yields. There are some regions that have achieved above average crop yields, while other areas are below average. "As a result, fall soil test nitrogen levels will vary across the province," he notes.

Another soil test consideration is field variability. Often fields have different landscape features, soil types and crop productivity. For example, hill tops tend to be drier with lower productivity than low areas where available moisture acculumates. These different landscapes will also have different soil test levels.

"In such situtations, it becomes very difficult to get one soil sample that represents the entire field. Producers may seriously consider collecting soil samples for each distinct area of the field, or, at the very least, avoid some of the extremes, especially hills tops and low areas if the landscape is rolling," he says.

Breaking up a field into distinct landscape features and collecting separate soil samples for each area is the first step into precision farming he adds. Precision farming allows farmers to fertilize and manage each part of their fields to optimize crop production.

A reliable fertilizer recommendation starts with good soil sampling. This include the area sampled, sample timing and sample processing after it's collected [See related article].

Contact: *Len Kryzanowski*
(403)427-6361

Soil test annually

Farmers should be soil testing annually, especially before seeding crops in the spring says an Alberta Agriculture crop nutrition agronomist.

"A soil test takes the guess work out of applying fertilizer," stresses Len Kryzanowski of the agronomy unit. "From the analyses you can see exactly what nutrients you may need to add, or aren't necessary.

"While gathering soil samples takes time, it may save you dollars when it comes to buying and applying fertilizer and to ensure adequate amounts of fertilizer for next year," he adds.

Soil test results should show the amount of available nutrients. These include nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulphur. As well, basic tests also describe soil pH, salinity, texture and free lime. Additional analyses, such as for micronutrients, can also be requested.

Fall soil testing is recommended and has some advantages. "Since spring and late fall sampling usually don't differ, doing a fall soil test gives farmers more time to analyze their fertilizer requirements," he notes.

Non-irrigated and established forage crop fields can be sampled as early as mid-September. Fallow and irrigated stubble fields should be sampled in late fall, after mid-October and just before freeze-up. [See related article on how to take soil samples.]

For more information, contact Kryzanowski in Edmonton at (403)427-6361, Ross McKenzie in Lethbridge at (403)381-5126 or any Alberta Agriculture crop specialist through your local Alberta Agriculture district office. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Len Kryzanowski*
(403)427-6361

Do soil tests right

Soil tests must be done right to be a useful fertilizer plannig tool says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"The ultimate goal is accurate analyses for reliable recommendations so you can make correct fertilizer decision," says Len Kryzanowski, a crop nutrition agronomist.

"Accurate laboratory analyses needs three things, timing, collecting and handling fall soil samples correctly," he adds.

Timing and depth of samples depend on the type of field. Non-irrigated and established forage crop fields can be sampled as early as mid-September. "Sampling in the zero to 15 cm depth may be adequate, however additional samples at 15 to 30 cm give a more complete overview," he notes.

Fallow and irrigated stubble fields should be sampled in late fall, after mid-October and just before freeze-up. Samples should be taken up to depths of 60 cm at intervals of zero to 15 cm, 15 to 30 cm and 30 to 60 cm.

"If you're fall seeding, then testing obviously must be earlier. We recommend testing up to a month before seeding. The sample depths depend on whether the field is fallow, stubble or irrigated," he adds.

As well, sampling should be done before fall fertilizer applications to any field. Otherwise, it's hard to collect a representative sample.

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Proper sample collecting has several guidelines. First, don't sample frozen or waterlogged soils.

Second, samples should represent a uniform area. "You might want to size up each field before you do any sampling," says Kryzanowski. Experts recommend subdividing the field into different areas based on observed variations in crop growth, yield, soil texture, soil color, land slope, degree of erosion, drainage and past management.

Unusual areas should be sampled separately. These areas include back furrows, old straw, hay or manure piles, waterways, saline spots, eroded knolls and old fence rows.

"It's best to take a separate sample if the area is significantly different than the rest of field, otherwise you may skew the overall analysis," he explains.

Random samples are needed from each field or area [See related article]. Samples from about 20 to 25 places make a good composite. Depth samples should be taken at the same time as surface samples. Labs need about a pound of soil from each depth to do an analyses. However, samples from each depth must be kept separate.

The best way to handle the sample is to immediately spread it out on a clean sheet of plastic. Let it air dry inside and then send it to the lab.

There is an alternative. Samples can be kept for up to three days in the refrigerator before delivery to a lab. "It's a good idea to check with individual labs to see what method they prefer," he says.

As part of sampling, each field requires an information sheet. "You fill out the next crop you plan to grow as well as any unusual spots or problems. Send one copy to the lab and keep a duplicate for yourself," he advises.

Also, tell the lab if you've banded phosphate fertilizer. If not, test phosphorus levels will be high. The lab can adjust their recommendations if they know about the banding.

Kryzanowski recommends using a laboratory that uses soil analyses methods and recommendations based on Alberta research. Alberta Agriculture no longer does soil analyses.

For a soil sampling probe and information about soil testing, contact your local Alberta Agriculture district office. Fertilizer dealers will also have information. Information is also available from Alberta Agriculture's agronomy unit at 2nd floor, Agronomy Centre, 6903-116 Street, Edmonton, T6H 4P2 or the Soil and Crop Diagnostic Centre at 9th floor, O.S. Longman Building, 6909-116 Street, Edmonton, T6H 4P2.

Contact: Len Kryzanowski
(403)427-6361

Meat goat seminar Oct. 21

Carcass composition, crossbreeding, meat cutting and presentation for a variety of markets are among the topics at an Alberta Goat Breeders Association (AGBA) meat goat seminar Oct. 21 in Red Deer.

Featured speaker at the one-day seminar is Dave Griffin, an extension meat specialist with Texas A&M University. Griffin has studied goat meat and compared carcasses of different crossbreds including Boers, Angoras, Spanish and dairy breeds.

"We're really excited about our guest speaker, Dr. Griffin," says Sara Emond, goat consultant and seminar organizer. "The seminar will also have other speakers."

Emond, who wrote the Alberta Agriculture publication **Meat Goats**, says there is an increasing market for goat meat—official known as chevon—in North America. That market has been recognized by farmers looking to diversify their operations. "With the recent introduction of the Boer breed to this country, new opportunity for improving product yield and value are anticipated," she says.

The seminar is designed for both experienced and novice goat producers. Seminar participants will also be treated to a gourmet chevon luncheon at the seminar site, the Capri Centre.

For more information about the seminar, contact Lesley Jackson, AGBA secretary manager, in Calmar at (403)985-3863.

The 70-plus page **Meat Goats** booklet that overviews production and management of meat goats is available from Alberta Agriculture's publications office. To order a copy, send a cheque or money order made payable to the Provincial Treasurer for $18.19 (includes postage, handling and GST) to: Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. You can also order using VISA or Mastercard by calling 1-800-292-5697.

Contact:	*Sara Emond*	*Lesley Jackson*
	(403)789-2279	*(403)985-3863*

Ask a key leader 4-H questions

As 4-H clubs around the province begin another season, there are inevitably questions. Answers are available from key leaders.

"Each 4-H district in the province has an experienced key leader who can help clubs and district councils get up and running," explains Penny Wilkes of Alberta Agriculture's home economics and 4-H branch.

Key leaders are local community volunteers who have experience operating 4-H clubs. They've been trained to assist

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club leaders with any questions leaders have about 4-H club operation.

"Key leaders are ready, willing, very capable and as close as your phone," says Wilkes. "They can quickly answer questions about member and leader registration, club supplies, district and regional problems, club insurance and developing club programs.

"Talking to a key leader for a few minutes will likely save you hours of work," she adds.

Contact your local Alberta Agriculture district office or regional 4-H specialist for the name and number of the key leader closest to you.

Contact: Penny Wilkes
(403)427-2541

Agri-News briefs

Country Crafts added to Farmfair

Farmfair International will hold its first annual western theme *Country Crafts* competition Nov. 4 through 12. The entry deadline is Oct. 2. Competition classes are photographs, dried flower arrangements, preserves, red ribbon recipes, cake decorating, metal work, wire art, woodwork, western sewing, youth culinary, wheat weaving, dolls, jewellery, tole painting, stained glass, table setting, cowboy Christmas tree, scarecrow, hortisculpture, best zucchini and pumpkin, and "just plain country" for craft items that don't fit in any of the categories. For more information, contact Northlands Park at (403)471-7260 or fax (403)471-8176.

Warmblood Fall Breeders Classic sale Nov. 3-4

The Alberta Chapter of the Canadian Warmblood Horse Breeders Association will be using a European format for its *Fall Breeders Classic* sale on Nov. 3 and 4 in Edmonton. "This auction will follow the popular European format where buyers have ample opportunity to inspect and test ride their selections. Riding age horses will be demonstrated under saddle and free jumped," says Chris Gould, chair of the Canadian Warmblood Horsebreeders Association. Gould says the sale is a "natural extension" of the association's mandate to provides service to members, similar to "our European counterparts". The sale will follow a two-hour gala showcase. "The gala promises to be a spectacular celebration of the horse, featuring all the sale horses," adds Gould. The sale is during Farmfair International'95 at Northlands Park in Edmonton. Sale catalogues are available from Gould by writing Box 688, Mayerthorpe, Alberta, T0E 1N0, or by calling (403)786-4337.

Specialty condiments workshop in Saskatoon

Processing and marketing specialty condiments is the subject of a one-day workshop in Saskatoon on Oct. 13. Condiments include such things as salsa, sauces and salad dressings. The $50 registration fee includes workshop proceedings and lunch. The workshop will be held at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel. For more information, contact Carol Ann Patterson at Saskatchewan FOODTALK at the University of Saskatchewan at (306)966-5029 or fax (306)966-8898.

Total Ranch Management in Northern Great Plains at Swift Current conference

Ranchers, farmers, researchers and specialists will discuss total ranch management in Northern Great Plains at a conference in Swift Current Nov.2 and 3. More than 30 presentations offer ranch-level experience and research reports. Topics include ranch management strategies, grazing management, rangeland ecology, range and pasture improvement, multiple uses and wildlife livestock interaction, and planning tools. Registration per person before Oct. 10 is $100 and the rate for couples is $175. For more information, contact Zoheir Abougendia in Swift Current at (306)778-8294 or fax (306)778-8604.

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North American ag lenders to meet in Des Moines

Agricultural bankers from across North America will meet in the first American Bankers Association(ABA)/Canadian Bankers Association (CBA) *North American Agricultural Lenders Conference* Nov. 12 through 15 in Des Moines, Iowa. The joint conference offers agricultural lenders in Canada, Mexico and the U.S. a unique and historic opportunity to meet and establish business relationships. Canadian and U.S. lenders face many of the same financial and management issues such as expanding farm debt or paying it down, transferring farm ownership to the next generation, managing technology and the shrinking rural economy. Among the conference topics are what bankers need to know about dealing in a borderless society, which country has the more competitive food and fibre system, and re-engineering credit delivery. Registration is $580 Canadian. To register in Canada, call (204)947-9221.

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AGRI-NEWS

October 2, 1995

'95 lives up to adage "conservation begins at harvest"

Northeastern and east central Alberta farmers must plan carefully now at harvest to prevent a high wind erosion risk next spring says an Alberta Agriculture soil conservation specialist.

"In areas where crop yields are much lower than the long-term averages, fall tillage may result in a very high risk of erosion next spring," says John Timmermans.

Because crop yields are low in many places, so are after harvest crop residues. As well, both northeastern and east central areas have high canola and pea acreages. Residue from both these crops is fragile. "Even one tillage operation can reduce canola and pea residues to levels that won't provide the minimum cover needed for soil protection," he notes.

While fall tillage may be part of a management system for residue management and weed control, Timmermans advises against the practice this fall. "Because residue levels are low to begin with, and even worse, fragile, farmers are urged to reconsider the practice of fall tillage.

"*Conservation begins at harvest* is an often used expression that's particularly relevant this year. Protecting your top soil from wind erosion must remain a high priority. That means spread straw and chaff as evenly as possible and not use tillage for weed control when crop residues are already precariously low," he says.

The opposite situation, above average crop yields and high crop residue levels, is happening in the southern and southwestern areas of the province. These high residue levels provide the best potential for both soil protection and snow trapping for next year's crop.

However, heavy residues can also be a problem when it comes to spring seeding conditions. "If you do have heavy residues, there are ways to manage them other than burning or extra tillage," he notes.

Contact: *John Timmermans*
(403)948-8539

Barley and wheat marketing plebiscite in November

Alberta wheat and barley growers will vote next month about how they want to market those grains.

The marketing plebiscite was announced by Walter Paszkowski, Agriculture Food and Rural Development minister, in late September.

Barley or wheat growers are eligible to vote at polling stations in Alberta Agriculture district offices or by mail between Nov. 13 and 24, 1995. The two ballot questions will ask whether the voter is in favour of having the freedom to sell barley and/or

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wheat to any buyer, including the Canadian Wheat Board, in domestic and export markets.

The plebiscite for grain farmers was ordered when a private member's motion was unanimously approved in the provincial legislature on February 28, 1995. A committee of 10 farm leaders, appointed in April to set criteria for the plebiscite, presented their recommendations to Paszkowski in mid-Sept.

"I am satisfied the recommendations made by the committee will result in a fair vote and will resolve any doubt about where Alberta farmers stand on this issue. We seek the opinion of farmers and believe participation in the campaign should be limited to farmers," emphasizes the minister.

Voter registration will be by individual declaration that the voter is 18 years of age or over, has grown barley or wheat in Alberta in 1993, 1994 or 1995, and has a financial interest in these crops. Eligible voters will be entitled to vote on both questions.

A chief returning officer will be appointed soon. The returning officer's job is to develop detailed criteria for the plebiscite.

Contact: Brian Hlus/Ron Glen (403)427-2137
Ken Moholitny (403)427-7329

Opportunities of bed and breakfast explained

What's involved in opening your doors to a bed and breakfast is the subject of a one-day seminar in Wetaskiwin on Nov. 1.

"*Open Your Home to a Bed and Breakfast Business* is designed for people interested in starting a bed and breakfast," says Margo Lawrence, Alberta Agriculture rural development specialist in Camrose.

Bed and breakfast businesses are becoming more popular with travellers. As well, they offer an opportunity for people to start a business or diversify their income notes Lawrence. "But as with any business opportunity, there are a lot of things to know and investigate before you start."

The seminar starts with an Alberta industry overview. The agenda also covers regulations, licensing, practical operation, market research and start-up costs.

Three bed and breakfast operators from the Wetaskiwin area will share their experiences. A representative of the Alberta Bed and Breakfast Association will outline the organization's history and its vision of the future.

Seminar registration is $25. Cheques can be made payable to the Wetaskiwin Community Learning Council and mailed to the council at Box 6960, Wetaskiwin, AB, T9A 2G5.

The council is a co-sponsor of the seminar along with Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Economic Development and Tourism. For more information, call (403)352-3321 [ext. 125].

Contact: Margo Lawrence (403)679-1210

Linking water quality and livestock productivity

On a quiet pasture on Stoney Creek Farm, operated by Wilbur and Edith Collin, a new project is showing the vital link between cattle production and water quality.

Alberta Agriculture's Trevor Yurchak and Bob Buchanan are working with the Collins to conduct this County of Athabasca project on remote watering systems.

The pasture is fenced down the middle into two 60-acre paddocks. Each side has 22 cow-calf pairs. All the cows are mature cows, and all the calves are heifers. On one side, cattle are watering directly from a dugout. On the other, water is pumped from a fenced dugout to a stock tank feeding into a watering trough.

The project team is weighing the cattle to calculate average daily gain for the two groups and monitoring water quality in the two dugouts. "The project's key water quality parameter is giardia," says engineering technologist Buchanan.

Giardia, a cyst that grows in the gut, causes the illness commonly called beaver fever. Although giardia needs a host to grow, it can survive in water for weeks or possibly months. So, if cattle with giardia water directly from a dugout, their excrement can contaminate the water supply.

"Research by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at Lethbridge indicates that, in some cases, giardia can reduce livestock weight gains by 20 per cent," notes Buchanan. The Athabasca project is following up on the Lethbridge research and bringing the results to local producers.

The project's results are also contributing to a larger Alberta study on giardia. It's being conducted by Peter Wallis of Hyperion Research, Merle Olson of the University of Calgary and K.J. Cheng of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Lethbridge Research Station.

The project's two dugouts are also being tested for coliforms (found in water contaminated by excrement), nitrates, nitrites, calcium, sodium, alkalinity, pH and other water quality measurements.

"We have completed two sets of water quality measurements," says Buchanan. "The results are preliminary, of course, but we're seeing some differences. For example, we found giardia in the direct watering dugout and none in the fenced dugout." Water quality will be measured again in late summer, fall and winter.

Cont'd on page 3

The team plans to continue the project next year, in part because of unusual conditions this year. "The dugouts are flushed every spring, but this year a heavy summer rain flushed them again so both dugouts look good in terms of water quality," he explains. "This is exceptional – usually the direct watering dugout looks pretty bad by mid-summer."

This could affect the results but, on the positive side, says beef specialist Yurchak. "If we find a difference between the dugouts this year, we'll likely find much bigger differences in other years."

Yurchak notes direct watering can reduce livestock health even when water quality is good. "If cattle have to wade deep into mud to drink, they may not water as often as they should. Less water consumption leads to poorer feed efficiency and poorer health."

As well, foot rot is more common among cattle using direct watering systems. "So far, we've found three cases of foot rot in the group watering directly in the dugout but no cases in the remote watering group," he says.

For more information on this project contact Yurchak at (403)675-2252 or Buchanan at (403)674-8252. This project is supported with funds from the Canada-Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (CAESA) farm based program.

Contact: *Trevor Yurchak* *Bob Buchanan*
(403)675-2252 *(403)674-8252*

Study will help with phosphorous recommendations

Data from a three-year study of crop response to phosphorus fertilizer are now being correlated with various soil testing methods used across the Prairies.

"The database will improve soil testing labs' ability to make phosphorus fertilizer recommendations to farmers. In turn, this should increase farmer confidence in the profitability of applying phosphorus," says Ross McKenzie, an Alberta Agriculture soil fertility researcher who managed the study.

Alberta soils tends to be naturally low in plant available phosphorus. The benefits of seed-placing phosphate fertilizer with wheat grown on fallow soils were first observed in Western Canada in the 1940s. However, phosphate fertilizer use wasn't common until the 1950s, and increased dramatically between the 1960s and 1980s. Currently Prairire farmers spend more the $325 million annually on phosphate fertilizer.

In the 1980s, agronomists began to note crops didn't always respond to the added phosphate even though the soils tested low in plant available phosphorus. Questions about phosphate build-up, accuracy of phosphorus soil tests and need for phosphate fertilizer prompted the three-year study.

"Our goal was to assess how crops responded to phosphate fertilizers on a wide range of soils found across the province," says McKenzie.

The extensive trials with wheat, barley and canola suggest almost 75 per cent of Alberta's soils are marginally to highly responsive to phosphorus fertilizer. "We had yield responses of at least two bushels per acre in three-quarters of the more than 420 field trials," he notes.

The project research team included five other Alberta Agriculture specialists plus two representatives of Westco Fertilizers. The project received funding from the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute (AARI), the Western Grains Research Foundation, the Alberta Canola Producers Commission, Sherritt, Cominco, Westco and the Potash and Phosphate Institute.

Contact: *Ross McKenzie*
(403)381-5126

Performance and optimums with premier Quarterhorse horseman

Quarterhorse breeders, trainers and enthusiasts take note, one of the industry's best will be at the *1996 Horse Breeders and Owners Conference* Jan. 12 through 14 in Red Deer

Discuss Quarterhorse performance, and Al Dunning's name is bound to enter the conversation. Dunning, of Scottsdale, Arizona, has trained and shown a number of American Quarterhorse Association (AQHA) world champions since he started training horses 25 years ago. He's also an AQHA approved judge.

"He's also known for his ability to share his knowledge and teach others," says Alberta Agriculture's Les Burwash, one of the conference organizers.

Dunning will discuss two topics at the conference. One is conformation as a world of optimums. Dunning believes balance and tieing conformation to performance are keys to identifying a well-conformed horse. He'll discuss optimums versus ideals.

His second topic focuses on "the last 30 to 45 days" before a major competition. Dunning will describe how both horse and rider must be physically and mentally prepared to compete.

"The underlying concept is to have the horse build its competitiveness and perfect its ability to complete the athletic feats required for competition," says Burwash.

The *Horse Breeders and Owners Conference* is one of the best of its type in North America. This year features 14 internationally recognized speakers. The annual conference features four streams – Arabian, Quarter Horse,

Cont'd on page 4

Thoroughbreds and all breeds – in its program. Participants aren't limited to any one stream, and can attend any conference session. Topics cover specific areas in production, equine business and riding.

"Registration is a bargain," notes Burwash. "Rates are the same again for 1996 at $75 per person with every additional person from the same farm at $50."

For more information about the 1996 conference, contact Burwash in Airdrie at (403)948-8532 or Bob Coleman in Edmonton at (403)427-5096. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact:	*Les Burwash*	*Bob Coleman*
	(403)948-8532	*(403)427-5096*

Fall care for your yard

A little time spent in your yard this fall will pay off next says spring an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Vegetable gardens, flower beds and berry patches should be cleaned up, soil taken care of and mulches added where necessary. It's also good timing for weed control in your lawn," says Shelley Barkley of the Crop Diversification Centre, South in Brooks.

Once frost has killed the annuals in the flower beds, plants can be pulled out. "As long as they are disease-free, the old plants can be composted," notes Barkley. "So can plants from your vegetable garden."

Soil preparation is another part of fall yard care. In the late fall, dig over the garden and annual flower beds with a spade. Dig a full spade depth and leave the lumps. Frost action will break down the lumps over the winter and improve soil texture. As well, overwintering insects are exposed to the elements.

"Fall is also a good time to add organic matter to flower beds or gardens," she adds. "Add a layer of manure, peat moss or mushroom manure and leave it over the winter. When you prepare soil in the spring, you can work the organic matter into the soil."

Most perennial plant tops can be cut off or left standing. "There's not a choice with peonies, iris and lilies tops. You have to cut them back to prevent disease," she advises.

Removing the tops from all perennials helps prevent overwintering of both diseases and insects. Cut the tops off, and add to your compost. Or, leave the plant material, to hold a snow cover during the winter.

"Newly planted perennials will benefit from a mulch of clean material such as straw, or dry grass and leaves mixed together," she adds.

The strawberry patch should be mulched when the temperature drops to -7°C and stays there for three or four nights. Water the plants well, then mulch with rye or oat straw. Watering lightly after applying the mulch will help hold it in place. The mulch layer, about five cm deep, after settling will keep the plants safe.

"Do watch for signs of mice during the winter and treat as necessary," she adds.

Wintering of tea roses begins in the summer. Stop fertilizing the plants at the end of July, and in August cut roses with shorter stems. In September, cut back the water, but never let the plants dry out.

"After several hard frosts, you can put down winter insulation," says Barkley. Water the plants well and head the canes back to 20 to 25 cm. Then, put about 30 cm of insulating material such as peat moss, compost or soil around the canes and the crown. Don't pack the material too tightly.

Water and watering is an important part of fall care. "It's important to have a reserve of moisture in the root zone for all perennials, trees, shrubs, and fruiting plants," she says.

Cutting back the water, but not stopping water, to woody plants and perennials in August will help plants prepare for winter. Soak plants well late in the fall, to ensure good soil moisture. Watering at this time of year prevents root damage during the winter.

Water-in plants again in mid-October or just before the ground freezes. Fill the soil profile with water by allowing a small stream to flow for several hours at the base of trees.

Early fall is also a good time for weed control in the lawn. Broad leaf herbicides for lawns applied on a warm day will control dandelions, chickweed and clover. Keep mowing the lawn as long as it continues to grow. To prevent damage to the grass crown, leave the about five cm long.

Raking the leaves tidies the yard and removes overwintering sites for many insects and diseases, and the dried leaves can be stockpiled for next year's compost pile.

"Finally, make a few notes for next year, what worked, what didn't, even the perennials that need to be moved and divided. After all, the long winter can fade the memories of the summer of 1995," says Barkley.

Contact: *Shelley Barkley*
(403)362-3391

Agri-News briefs

Hort Congress line-up fills range

If you're in the horticulture industry, then you need to be in Edmonton Nov. 2 through 4 for the 1995 *Alberta Horticultural Congress*. The congress and associated *Prairie West Horticultural Trade Show*, offer vegetable, greenhouse, fruit, dried flower and herb growers, along with florists, an opportunity to learn more about production, marketing and other aspects of their particular sector and the overall industry. Registration information is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and Simone Demers Collins at (403)422-1789

Diversified livestock course coming to Lakeland

Lakeland College in Vermilion will offer a one-year certificate course in diversified livestock starting in Jan. 1996. A blue-ribbon producer panel helped develop the course. A key program component is a summer practium with an established producer or researcher. Students will also experience hands-on learning through visits and labs at established farms and facilities including the University of Alberta's Kinsella Ranch and Elk Valley Processors. The program will focus on native species such as deer, elk and bison and well-adapted exotic species such as llamas, alpacs, ostrich and emus. For more information, call the college at 1-800-661-6490 or (403)853-8420.

Saskatchewan pork industry syposium/workshop Nov. 8-9

The *Saskatchewan Pork Industry Syposium* has a new two-day format and a new venue, the Saskatoon Inn. The syposium and workshop run Nov. 8 and 9. It will focus on four specific issues – nutrition, biosecurity, price risk management and early weaning. One feature will be the launch of the Prairie Swine Centre's **Swine Nutrition Guide** second edition. For more information, contact Wendy Hayes in Saskatoon at (306)933-5078 or fax (306)933-5323.

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Grain prices supported by tight global supply/demand balance

Tightening world supplies and strong global demand have pushed Canadian grain prices to record or near-record levels says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"The situation of having both wheat and coarse grain stocks at such low levels is unusual, but it's a happy coincidence for farmers because prices are up," says Al Dooley of the market analysis and statistics branch.

Wheat futures prices moved higher in September as estimates of the global wheat crop continued to shrink. Production forecasts in Argentina, the EU and the U.S. were all lowered from August estimates. Ending global wheat stocks are now forecast at less than 100 million tonnes, about 25 million tonnes less than the five-year average.

World barley production is also down, about 10 million tonnes less than a year ago. At the same time, the U.S. corn crop is estimated at about 7.8 billion bushels, a huge drop from last year's 10.1 billion bushels.

"The Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) recognized these facts in its latest Pool Return Outlook (PRO) with price jumps for wheat, durum, feed barley and designated barley,"

Wheat PROs increased by $9 to $14 per tonne, durum was up by $16 per tonne, feed barley rose by $7 per tonne and designated barley jumped the most at $15 to $18 per tonne.

These September PROs for wheat and feed barley are the highest in-store values on record, with durum and designated barley almost at record levels. Given these levels the CWB has recommended initial payments be increased.

"U.S. wheat futures were closing in on the elusive $5 per bushel mark and that's a good reason to be upbeat about price prospects throughout the current crop year," adds Dooley.

"Optimism is also in order with coarse grains. The coarse grains market has strong fundamentals that are unlikely to change over the balance of the crop year.

"The other good thing about both the wheat and coarse grains markets is that any change in the current situation of tight supplies isn't likely to fix itself quickly," he says.

Any major shift in world acreage to coarse grains, for example, would require shifting out of wheat or oilseeds resulting in tighter supplies and higher prices he explains.

"Plus, with attractive prices across the board, acreage shifts next year will probably be very modest," he adds. "The current crop year's tight ending stocks mean that the 1996-97 crop

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year will again be one where there is very little margin for production problems in major wheat growing nations."

Contact: *Al Dooley*
(403)427-5387

Special crops continue price strength

Good news is the best news and that's what is coming out of special crop trade circles says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Most special crop cash bids are at the highest level they've been for over a year," notes Matthew Machielse of the market analysis and statistics branch.

"As well, prices have generally increased against seasonal declines for the most of the summer. This indicates a very strong underlying market demand," he adds.

Machielse forecasts farm gate bids at profitable levels over the near term. "As markets rise, producers should be disciplined marketers, set target prices and carry through on delivery as their triggers are met."

He also advises producers to sample any stored product for grade and dockage. "This will prevent unpleasant suprises later in the year."

In specific markets, Machielse says traders will bid strongly for edible grade peas in October through November. "Increased competition will drive the edible grade premium to between 85 cents and $1 per bushel," he adds.

Canary seed market bids have increased about $100 per tonne since July. A late harvest has added to market speculation. "Price advances in the near future will probably be limited given how traders are overextending sales beyond confirmed supplies," he warns.

For more information about special commodity markets, contact Machielse in Edmonton at (403)427-4011.

Contact: *Matthew Machielse*
(403)427-4011

Lamb trade steady

The short-term outlook for Alberta lamb producers is bright says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Since spring, recurring tight supplies and excellent commercial demand has pushed prices to near record highs," says Don Hansen of the market analysis and statistics branch.

"With this trend, the traditional summer slummer didn't happen and it even appears lamb prices will be strong until after Christmas supplies are secured," he adds.

As long as the Canadian dollar doesn't rise from current levels and U.S. packer interest stays steady, Hansen forecasts Alberta lamb to trade in an $87.50 to $92.50/cwt. window.

Hansen also has some advice for producers. "Even though price prospects are rosy, producers should be aware of their production costs and consider selling lambs early," he says.

Recent production studies have indicated direct cash costs to ewe lamb producers may be as much as 70 cents per pound of gain on slaughter lambs. "If you use a 70 cent per pound cost and figures from the last Edmonton sale average, a producer may be losing as much as five dollars per head by feeding lambs out at current prices," notes Hansen. These costs aren't representative of commercial feedlots.

Good slaughter lambs ranged between $90 and $98.50/cwt with an average of $92 in Edmonton during September. Feeder lambs (61 to 80 lbs.) averaged $109/cwt and prices ranged between $93 and $117/cwt. In the under 60 lbs. class, prices averaged $114/cwt. and ranged between $110 and $118/cwt.

Contact: *Don Hansen*
(403)427-4011

Sellers' market gone

Holding back calves this fall and hoping for a return to 1994 prices isn't a realistic marketing strategy says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"The feeder cattle market is no longer a sellers' market, it's moved into being a buyers' market," says Ron Gietz of the market analysis and statistics branch.

"Cow-calf producers can't expect export demand to ride to the rescue this fall," he adds. Feeder cattle exports from Canada to the U.S. have slowed to a trickle. U.S. feedlots are still feeding "foreign" cattle, but are using inexpensive Mexican cattle and not relatively expensive Canadian cattle.

On a U.S. dollar equivalent, American cow-calf producers are generally facing lower calf prices than Canadian producers. "In fact, significant volumes of U.S. feeder cattle imports are expected to come into Alberta this fall," he says.

Another market "rule" change is that light weight cattle aren't a premium product anymore. Soaring feedgrain prices and strong forage markets mean the cost of putting on a pound of grain has risen sharply compared to last fall explains Gietz. As a result, light cattle aren't nearly as desirable a commodity as they have been in the last eight years.

As well, as the reality of cheaper calves and higher grain prices sink in, breeding stock demand will fall. "A 20 per cent calf price decrease compared to last fall will mean an equal or greater percentage decline in breeding stock prices," he says.

As a result, bred heifer producers face lower incomes and may have to reassess their business strategy for the next three years

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he adds. "On a more positive note, there may be opportunities for some producers to expand their herds at a reasonable cost."

Contact: Ron Gietz
(403)427-5376

September again poor for slaughter cattle

September lived up to its reputation as a poor month to market slaughter cattle says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"It was particularly poor if you had overweight steers," says Ron Gietz of the market analysis and statistics branch.

By late August, U.S. fed cattle prices plunged to the high $50/cwt. range. This was even lower than prices in late June 1994. Alberta fed cattle prices moved to the low $70s/cwt. range before rebounding to the upper $70s late in the month.

Gietz notes the live cattle futures market predicts a pattern of slightly increasing prices by December, followed by almost no price changes until a seasonal decline begins next May.

"This may be realistic, but the market hasn't built any kind of weather premium for possible winter storms that could affect cattle prices," he says. Gietz forecasts Alberta Direct Sale Steer prices to average $80/cwt. through October, $81 in November, $83 in December, $86 in January and $89 in February and March.

This price forecast is based on a 73 cent Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar. "Since the value of the dollar is nearly always a major uncertainity, any up and down swings will affect prices accordingly," he adds.

Contact: Ron Gietz
(403)427-5376

Northern market opportunities, research priorities studied

Marketplace opportunities and research priorities for Peace region agriculture are currently being studied by the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute (AARI).

A steering committee representing sectors of the region's agricultural community are overseeing the study. Its chair is Ralph Christian, AARI's executive director.

This study was requested by Walter Paszkowski, Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister. At the committee's first meeting in July, Paszkowski challenged it with this question: "What should we be doing in research in northern Alberta to seize emerging opportunities?"

For example, the federal research station at Beaverlodge will continue to put emphasis on canola research for northern Alberta.

"The areas of opportunity needing research may go beyond soils, grains, oilseeds, honey, forages and livestock, to special crops, horticultural products, bison, elk and others," notes Christian. "In particular, value-added processing of primary products into finished food and non-food products represents an exciting area for future growth."

The study also includes challenges. For example, changes to grain transportation and marketing will have a significant effect on opportunities for northern Alberta agriculture.

The institute has commissioned a consulting firm, Serecon Management Consulting of Edmonton, to collect and analyze information about the region's opportunities and research needs, and to organize public consultations.

"Serecon has already interviewed people about their ideas for expanding agriculture opportunities and research needs in northern Alberta. The steering committee's view is that to explore many of the opportunities actively there is a need for further research."

An important part of the study will be consultation meetings with the region's stakeholders. The steering committee will review Serecon's study and hold local meetings with producers, processors and others.

"The public meetings are a way for residents of northern Alberta to offer their ideas about expanding opportunities and determining related research priorities," he says.

"We're hoping to have these meetings in November. Our committee encourages all Albertans in the Peace region to attend and share their visions for a strong agriculture and food industry," adds Christian.

Anyone with ideas and information to contribute, can call Don Hoover or Bob Burden at Serecon, (403)448-7450 or fax (403)421-1270.

Contact: Dr. Ralph Christian
(403)422-1072

Processor newsletter available

Food trends, marketing and other aspects of the food processing business are highlighted in an Alberta Agriculture newsletter.

The **Northwest Processor** is a project of four department specialists. "We've just published our second issue," says one of the four, Kerry Engel, rural development specialist in Westlock.

Her counterparts in Stony Plain and Morinville, respectively Gail Lemke and Janice McGregor, plus agri-food development

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consultant Karen Goad in Grande Prairie are the rest of the team.

While the team is based in the northwest, the information can apply to food processors across the province. Copies of the newsletter have seen sent to all Alberta Agriculture district offices.

"Processors or people planning to get into some aspect of food processing are welcome to get on the mailing list," says Engel.

For example, the latest issue discusses food trends such as ethnic flavors, new mozzarella for pizzas and the top 10 new food product trends. The newsletter also features business successes, new publications and other resources, upcoming events and tours, and networking opportunities.

For more information about **Northwest Processor** contact Engel in Westlock at (403)349-4465.

To find out how one of these specialists can help your agri-business, contact Lemke in Stony Plain at (403)963-6101, McGregor in Morinville at (403)939-4351 or Goad in Grande Prairie at (403)538-5285. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Kerry Engel
(403)349-4465

Business of horticulture at congress sessions

While the annual Alberta Horticultural Congress offers specific sessions on producing a variety of horticultural crops, it doesn't ignore the business side of horticulture.

"Our 1995 agenda has several sessions that are about business management. Success as a grower requires both production knowledge as well as business skill," says says Bill MacFarlane, the 1995 congress chair. The annual congress is Nov. 2 through 4 in Edmonton.

Some sessions are very basic, such as meeting with a bank manager, how to prepare and what to expect.

Other topics are related to service. Rod McCormick from Consider It Done Incorporated of Victoria will discuss the business of service and service excellence. Another session deals specifically with how to encourage customers to come back. McCormick was rated "best session speaker" at last year's marketing conference for Western Canada and the U.S.

The congress session agenda also has a farmers' market workshop, a session on the buyer's perspective, a presentation by the Horticulture Human Resource Council, a look at tours in "Omigod the big yellow school bus is here", and growers' experience with production and marketing their market garden.

The complete congress program offers sessions geared to vegetable, fruit, flower, herb and greenhouse growers as well as professional florists.Featured speaker is Brian Minter of Minter Gardens and Minter Garden Centre of Chilliwack, B.C. He'll discuss destination marketing, horticulture for the turn of the century, growing a good product and selling more.

Complete congress registration is $98 before Oct. 15 and $150 after that date. It includes admission to the Prairie West Horticultural Trade Show. Day rates are also available.

For registration and other information, call the congress office at (403)422-1789.

Contact: Simone Demers Collins
(403)422-1789

Dried flowers and herbs added to Hort Congress mix

The Alberta Flower and Herb Growers Association is the newest horticultural association to join the Alberta Horticultural Congress program.

"Our congress agenda reflects their addition," says Bill MacFarlane, the 1995 congress chair. The annual congress is Nov. 2 through 4 in Edmonton.

Among the specific topics related to growing flowers and herbs are growing medicinal herbs in the greenhouse, growing dried flowers for profit, herb and botanical production, designing with drieds, marketing drieds in Alberta and beyond, and preserving flowers and herbs.

The full congress program includes a variety of horticulture production and business topics related growing vegetables, fruits and greenhouse crops as well as for professional florists.

The congress is held in conjunction with the Prairie West Horticultural Trade Show and the annual Landscape Alberta Nursery Trades Association (LANTA) conference.

Full congress registration includes admission to the trade show as well as continental breakfasts each morning. Day rates are also available at $66 each for Thursday and Friday and $46 for Saturday.

Associated activities include the *Fall Harvest Festival* at the Muttart Conservatory and *Home for the Holidays* at the congress. The congress planning committee is jointly hosting the festival with Northern Fresh Produce Marketing Association. *Home for the Holidays* is an AIDS benefit sponsored by Flowers Canada (Alberta region). Holiday bouquets, garlands and centrepieces designed by three internationally known floral artists will be auctioned on Nov. 4.

For more information, contact Simone Demers Collins in Edmonton at (403)422-1789.

Contact: Simone Demers Collins
(403)422-1789

Guard against winter rodent damage

Prevention is the only way to protect trees and shrubs from the damage rodents and other animals inflict over the winter says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Young bark offers a tasty alternative to mice when the snow covers their usual fare of seeds. Rabbits prefer to eat young twigs, but they also strip the bark off trees and shrubs. Even porcupines will damage the trees in the yard by feeding on the bark," says Shelley Barkley of the Crop Diversification Centre, South in Brooks.

Materials such as aluminum foil, 1.25 cm mesh hardware cloth, PVC pipe or one inch chicken wire can be used for tree guards. Cut PVC pipe along one side and place around the tree trunk. Circle trunks with hardware cloth or chicken wire and fasten the ends together securely.

The tree guards need to extend 5 cm below the soil line for effective mouse control since mice usually eat below the snow line. Rabbit guards need to extend .6 to .7 m above the snow line to be effective.

"Wrapping the trunk with aluminum foil also helps prevent sun scald," she notes.

Commerical tree guards are available. Guards should be installed in the fall and removed in the spring.

"Since chicken wire works for rabbits but not for mice, you need to do some extras," says Barkley. Keep tree wells free of grass. Mice usually won't cross an area in the open to feed, so keep a one meter clear area around trees and shrubs. Try to remove as much alternate food on the ground as possible, including crabapples, berries and bird seed. Mulch should be pulled away from the base of young trees for the winter.

"Mice also like perennial beds, so mulch perennial beds after the ground has frozen. Mice can't dig in frozen ground to feed on the plants. Keep an eye out for signs of mice around the yard. It may be necessary to put out traps," notes Barkley.

Another alternative in rodent control is repellents such as Rabbit Repel or Rodent Repel that contain the active ingredient thiram. "This stuff tastes bad, but won't harm animals," she says.

Thiram is effective for rabbits, mice or deer and may be painted or sprayed on the tree trunk.

As well, natural soaps that contain ammonium salts or higher fatty acids have an unpleasant odour that repels most animals. "Odor from the soap discourages feeding without harming the animals," she adds.

Contact: *Shelley Barkley*
(403)362-3391

Agri-News briefs

Plebiscite question set

Alberta producers will be asked two separate questions in a plebiscite on wheat and barley marketing. The question asks if producers are in favor of having the freedom to sell their grain to any buyer, including the Canadian Wheat Board, into domestic and export markets. One question will be specifically for wheat and the other for barley. "I want to make it clear that this is not a vote against the Canadian Wheat Board. This vote is about options and choices for farmers to market the products they produce," says Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister. The vote will take place betweeen November 14 and 24 at Alberta Agriculture district offices. Producers also have the option of voting by mail. Farmers who have grown barley and wheat in the past three years are eligible to vote. Harold Hanna has been appointed the plebiscite's chief returning officer. For more information, contact Ken Moholitny at (403)427-7329 or Hanna in Edmonton at (403)422-9167.

Canola quality falls moving west

Alberta canola yield estimates are "all over the map" says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "Although the quality of this year's canola crop seems to fall as you move west through the Prairies, early estimates in Alberta point to about 70 per cent grading number one," says Al Dooley of the market analysis and statistics branch. "However, yields aren't consistent." Some estimate the average yield will be about 25 bushels per acre. Statistics Canada estimates peg average yield at 23 bushels per acre. On the market side, oilseed markets improved through September. "While the fundamentals were much the same as August, weather concerns, strong wheat and coarse grain markets and farmers' general bullishness is helping to keep this market firm," he says. For more information, contact Dooley in Edmonton at (403)427-5387.

Hog prices pressured lower

Seasonal increases in hog production are expected to pressure prices lower through the fall and early winter says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "Producers might want to consider hedges or put purchases to help protect profitable margins for this period," says Ron Gietz of the market analysis and statistics branch. The North American pork complex has been strong and prices shouldn't fall anywhere near last fall's levels when prices averaged $1.01/kg in November. Gietz forecasts 1995 November prices at $1.45/kg, falling to $1.35 in January and coming back up to $1.45 by March. For more information, contact Gietz in Edmonton at (403)427-5376.

WGTPP acreage eligibility changed

Minimum acreage eligibility in the Western Grain Transition Payments Program (WGTPP) has been reduced from 50 to 10 acres. This means any landowner with at least 10 acres of farm land who grew an eligible crop in 1994, or if summerfallowed in 1994 grew an eligible crop in 1993, can now apply for a WGTPP payment. Payments are based on eligible acres, land productivity and distance from port. The WGTPP is a federal government program administered by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA). The application deadline is Nov. 1, 1995. If land is rented, landlords and tenants are to reach an equitable agreement on the payment. The deadline for tenants to object is Nov. 15, 1995. For an appplication form or more information, call the PFRA at 1-800-667-9962.

Ten Albertans win Monsanto agri-business scholarships

Ten Albertans are among 40 young Canadians who will receive $1,000 scholarships from Monsanto Canada's agricultural division. All scholarship recipients started university this fall in business or agriculture programs. The 10 Albertans are: Lia Lundgren of Vulcan, Heather Mitchell of Pincher Creek, James Murphy of Altario, Kevin Nielsen of Innisfail, Dalyce Russill of Elkwater, Shane Skretting of Enchant, Miya Turnbull of Onoway, Darren Van Raay of Iron Springs, Trenton Wennekmap of Lloydminster and Gloria Wilson of Drumheller. The Monsanto Agri-Business Scholarship was founded in 1991. For more information, contact Dorothy Militere in Winnipeg at (204)985-1000.

Alberta emu seminar Oct. 28

The Alberta Emu Association is holding a one-day seminar and conference Oct. 28 at the Nisku Inn. Among the speakers and topics are a Washington state producer with 10 years experience, Alberta Agriculture's avaian veterinarian on feed formulation and sexing, emu oil and research updates. The seminar will interest current producers and anyone considering emu production. For registration information, contact L. Richard at (403)963-4523 in Spruce Grove.

Agriculture on Internet course at U of A

The University of Alberta is offering a one-day course about agriculture on the Internet Oct. 28. The course introduces participants to Internet features including electronic mail, news services, public archives and databases. How to transfer files, remote logins and the latest Internet tools will also be covered. "This course is designed specifically for people in the agriculture industry," notes program manager Michael Splinter. Course facilitator is Jerome Martin. Martin has worked extensively with Internet and its applications in agriculture and extension. The course fee is $199, or $175 before Oct. 14. To register or for more information, contact Sheila Greenberg at (403)492-3029 or Splinter at (403)492-3035.

Barley Commission regional meetings in November

The Alberta Barley Commission will hold regional meetings throughout November leading up to the commission's annual meeting on November 30 in Red Deer. The regional meetings are Nov. 6 in Leduce, Nov. 7 in St. Paul, Nov. 9 in Falher, Nov. 14 in Lethbridge, Nov. 15 in Airdrie and Nov. 16 in Stettler. For more information, contact the commission in the Calgary area at (403)291-9111 or toll-free from anywhere else in Alberta at 1-800-265-9111.

AARI application deadlines Nov. 1

Three Alberta Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) programs have Nov. 1 application deadlines. Two elements of the *Farming for the Future* program – matching grants and direct funding – plus AARI's research co-ordination program all have this deadline. Application forms are available from Alberta Agriculture's research division by calling (403)427-1956. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

First national farm safety convention Oct. 26-28

The first annual *Canadian Farm Safety Conference* will be held in Charlottetown Oct. 26 through 28. The conference theme is "farming safely...living healthy..taking the challenge." Among the agenda topics are the new Canadian Agriculture Safety Program (CASP), why farm safety is important with the president of the Canadian Farmers with Disabilities, health issues for rural women and farm safety projects. The convention is designed for farmers, farm organizations, health professionals and government officials. For more information, call the PEI Federation of Agriculture at (902)368-7289 or (902)892-6913 or fax (902)368-7204.

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AGRI-NEWS

October 16, 1995

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CASP deadline October 20

October 20 is the application deadline for the Canadian Agriculture Safety Program (CASP).

"CASP's objective is to decrease the level of farm injuries and fatalities across Canada by providing project funding specifically for farm safety and rural health, " notes Eric Jones, an Alberta Agriculture farm safety specialist.

Eligible projects include promotional materials and activities, ways to monitor agriculture related deaths and health issues, farm health and safety prevention programs, safety standards, data gathering and analysis, and ways to exchange information about farm health and safety issues.

"Program guidelines give priority to projects that build on current national or provincial activities, that are broad-based and that highlight children," notes Jones.

Non-profit organizations, industry associations, corporations, universities, all levels of government, crown corporations and government agencies can apply for CASP funding.

CASP is administered by the Canadian Coalition for Agriculture Safety and Rural Health (CCASRH) on behalf of Agriculture and Agri-food Canada.

Application forms are available from Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program office in Edmonton by calling (403)427-2171. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Eric Jones*
(403)427-2171

Jacqueline Galloway
(403)427-2171

September delivered good harvest weather

September provided ideal warm and dry harvest weather across the province says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

"The average temperature was 1.3 degrees above normal and total precipitation 63 per cent below normal," notes Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch.

As well, the first widespread frost occurred between September 18 and 21. "That's about one week later than the average first fall frost date for most agricultural regions of Alberta. The frost was followed by warm, dry weather until the end of the month providing ideal harvest weather," he adds.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News™ is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Provincial climate stations averaged 16.4 mm of precipitation, 28 mm below the 1961 to 1990 average. These averages are based on data recorded at 59 Environment Canada climate stations across Alberta.

The wettest part of Alberta was the southern region where precipitation amounts ranged from up to 165 per cent of normal. The central region reported between two and 65 mm, about 5 per cent to 120 per cent of normal. The Peace, northwest and northeast regions were the driest regions in September reporting between zero and 20 mm, or zero to 50 per cent of normal.

In agricultural areas, Claresholm received the most precipitation during September reporting 62.6 mm or 149 per cent of its long term average. On the other end of the precipitation scale, Elk Point had no precipitation during the entire month of September. Elk Point's September average is 43.3 mm. Peace River received only 1.8 mm, 5 per cent of normal.

The average monthly temperature for September was 11.7°C, some 1.3 degrees above the long term average of 10.4 degrees. Most Alberta locations reported temperatures one to three degrees above normal.

Bow Island reported 13.8°C, the warmest monthly mean temperature in the province. That was about one degree above the normal temperature of 12.9°C. Crowsnest Pass reported a 9.7°C average, the coldest monthly average temperature. "However, this temperature was still slightly above its normal," he notes.

Contact: Peter Dzikowski
(403)422-4385

A how much and how fast of conservation practices

Their mandate is two-fold – finding out if farmers are adopting conservation practices and determining the best way to increase the adoption rate across the Prairies.

Alberta Agriculture's Leon Marciak and David Spiess are members of a multi-agency Parkland Agriculture Research Initiative program two (PARI-2). They're currently in year three of a four year study.

Marciak and Spiess' work has focused on examining data from a number of sources and finding ways to better integrate data from a variety of sources including remote sensing, digital terrain models, Agricultural Census, and crop and farmer surveys.

Their aim is more comprehensive, reliable and quality information that can be used to generate maps and graphs to help achieve PARI-2's mandate. "Such a system will potentially help resource managers and policy makers better understand land use and management dynamics," says Marciak.

Summerfallow activity in Alberta's agricultural areas is one interest of the PARI-2 team. "Summerfallow is one of several possible ways to measure soil conservation," notes Spiess. "One main advantage is data is readily available in many different forms including census information and satellite imagery."

Using the 1991 Census of Agriculture, the team split the province's agriculture areas into 17 conservation areas. Sample townships within each area were selected, then detailed land cover information including the amount and kind of summerfallow was collected.

Marciak and Spiess collected this information during mid-August from townships in the Wainwright and Provost municipal districts, the counties of Paintearth, Stettler and Wheatland and Special Areas 2 and 3.

"So far we've observed fewer summerfallow fields and reduced erosion in areas where farmers are using minimum, no and zero tillage. Residue on fields is the critical factor in reducing soil erosion during the year. It's preferable to have stubble standing.

"Our observations have confirmed the trend that more farmers are adopting conservation farming practices," says Marciak, a soil conservation specialist.

Those observations are supported by cross-referencing information between data sources. "With improved integration methods, researchers can derive more valuable information about crop management practices and soil issues than is possible when those sources are analyzed by themselves," says Spiess, a conservation planning assistant.

Marciak and Spiess' work in land resource monitoring and evaluation will be featured at a PARI conservation workshop in late November. *Bringing Conservation Technology to the Farm* runs Nov. 26 through 28 in Saskatoon. The workshop will highlight PARI achievements to date.

PARI partners include Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, the University of Alberta, the University of Saskatchewan and Ducks Unlimited.

For more information about the conference, contact John Hermans in Edmonton at (403)422-4385 or fax (403)422-0474. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Leon Marciak *David Spiess*
(403)422-4385 *(403)422-4385*

Evaluating erosion models for Alberta

Unlike two children playing in water, two grown men intently watching water rush down a muddy channel might catch your attention. But the grownups aren't playing, they're measuring erosion in small channels called rills. They'll use those measurements to calculate an erodibility factor to use in a computer water erosion model.

"Computer modelling can be a fast, cost-effective way to assess water erosion potential," explains project leader Douwe Vanderwel, an Alberta Agriculture soil conservation engineer.

Models can help farmers select erosion control strategies that suit their needs such as crop residue cover or grassed waterways. The models also help project planners predict off-site impacts of water management systems, estimate potential effects of forestry activities or determine the soil erosion status of a district or region.

However, most water erosion prediction models were developed in the U.S. and aren't designed for Alberta's climate, crops and soils. That's why Vanderwel and his research team from the conservation and development branch are working with the University of Alberta and Agriculture and Agri-food Canada to collect data needed to test U.S. models for use in Alberta. [See separate story on data collection.] The project is supported with funding from the Canada-Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (CAESA).

To date, the team has measured erodibility at five sites – Breton, Edmonton, Lacombe, Tofield and Wetaskiwin. "We plan to collect data at about 20 more sites to better characterize a wide variety of soil types and textures within the major soil groups," says Vanderwel.

The resulting erodibility dataset will provide a sound basis for using water erosion models such as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s water erosion prediction project (WEPP) says Ralph Wright, soil scientist and project team member. "Also, the data set is computerized so it's very flexible with many potential applications," he adds.

These applications include: identifying erosion-prone soil types and surface materials; improving water erosion risk maps; planning routes for roads or pipeline routes; siting foresty operations; and, enhancing geographic information systems (GIS) applications.

"The GIS applications are especially promising," notes Vanderwel. "Erodibility data can be added to other attributes, such as soil texture and slope, in a landscape database. That database can be integrated with an agricultural production database to create a powerful tool for understanding and managing rural environments."

Along with soil erodibility, the research team is conducting detailed erosion studies on three agricultural drainage basins at Breton, Tofield and Lacombe. A fourth site is planned for the Peace region.

"We're collecting a broad range of input data to characterize conditions before, during and after an erosion event in these basins," says Wright. "This detailed information will allow us to test existing models, and possibly future models, to see how well they predict erosion in Alberta."

For more information about the project, contact Vanderwel or Wright in Edmonton at (403)422-4385.

Contact: Douwe Vanderwel Ralph Wright
(403)422-4385 (403)422-4385

From rill data to erodibility database

In their quest to collect Alberta data for an computer erodibility model, researchers have to gather their data in very specific ways.

"The models require specific data collected particular ways to meet the specifications of a U.S. water erosion model called WEPP," explains Ralph Wright of the conservation and development branch.

"For example, we conduct all rill erosion measurements on clean, tilled fallow plots with a five per cent slope," he adds.

The research team also use a wooden template to form each rill channel to a set width, depth and length. After saturating the channel's soil for a 12-hour period, the researchers subject it to five different flow rates, each for seven minutes.

During each flow, they take sediment samples from the muddy outflow every 50 seconds. After each flow rate, they take a series of rill cross-section measurements to determine the rill's hydraulic characteristics. They also measure soil bulk density, infiltration rates, aggregate stability and other physical properties of soil.

Back in the office, soil scientist Wright uses the data to determine the relationship between hydraulic shear – the force flowing water applied to the rill channel – and its effect on the sediment detachment rate.

This information is plotted on graphs. [See example on the next page. The graph's slope is the rill erodibility factor used in the WEPP model.]

Wright notes the resulting dataset provides a sound basis for applying water erosion models such as WEPP to Alberta conditions. The erodibility database is also flexible and has uses beyond agriculture such as planning routes for roads or pipelines or siting forestry operations.

Contact: Ralph Wright Douwe Vanderwel
(403)422-4385 (403)422-4385

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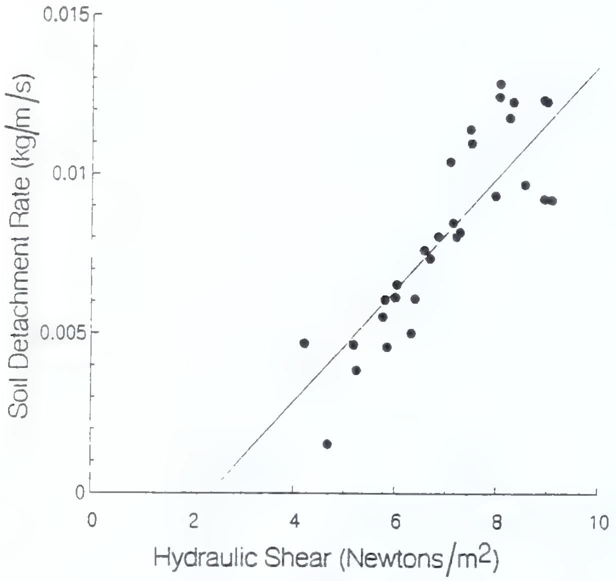

Soil data township by township

The three-year *Soil Inventory Project* is mid-way toward its target to standardize soil information for Alberta's agricultural areas.

"Last year over 800 townships were mapped, and this year the target is another 940," says Leon Marciak, an Alberta Agriculture soil conservation specialist.

Standardized and revised soil information are the project's goals. Soil surveys date back to the 1920s. Since then, map and report formats as well as soil classification systems and concepts have changed.

"When the project is complete, we will have a readily accessible digital database of soil information for producers to use," he says.

The other project element is a computerized database. "Preliminary results from the project's first year have given us updated information on the distribution of soils in the province. This will allow us to provide better interpretation for land use and environmental planning," he notes.

The project is jointly funded by the Alberta Research Council, Alberta Agriculture and the Canada-Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (CAESA).

Project leader SLRI Consultants and two other companies are doing a majority of the work. Their field vehicles are marked with soil inventory project signs and the CAESA logo.

Currently crews are working in the Peace River and Grande Prairie areas, northeast of Edmonton and east of Drumheller.

For more information about the project, contact Marciak in Edmonton at (403)422-4385, Tony Brierley of Agricultural and Agri-food Canada at (403)495-4243 or Larry Nikiforuk of SLRI in Edmonton at (403)462-2434.

Contact: *Leon Marciak*
(403)422-4385

Seminar takes on beef challenges

Although it's already renowed for its quality, Alberta beef must continue to maintain its quality and competitive edge in a demanding global food marketplace.

The challenges of building a world class beef industry will be discussed at a one-day seminar in Edmonton on Nov. 9 during Farmfair International.

"The speaker line-up features expertise from all aspects of the industry," says Elton Dunk, an Alberta Agriculture trade director and member of Farmfair's international committee.

Two of the speakers are from beef promotional organizations. Ted Haney is a director of the Canada Beef Export Federation. Ken Aylesworth is executive director of Canadian Beef Improvement. Respectively their mandates are export opportunities and genetic improvement.

Producers are also on the agenda. Bernie Kotelko is the owner of Highland Feeders, a large cattle feeding operation. Keith Porter is a purebred breeder. Bill Sturm is a commercial cattleman.

The buyer perspective includes the views of a Texas-based cattleman who buys Canadian beef cattle. Also sharing their views are John Simons, general manager of Cargill Foods – the most technically advanced beef processing plant in Canada – and enterpreneur and restauranteur Tom Goodchild who features Alberta beef at Sawmill Restaurants and the Hard Rock Cafe.

Basic registration is $50. This includes breakfast, lunch and coffee break. A VIP registration includes a reception with Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister and a ticket to the Canadian Finals Rodeo. The registration deadline is Nov. 3.

For more information, contact Northlands Park at (403)471-7129 or fax (403)471-8176.

Contact: *Elton Dunk*
(403)427-4241

Congress sessions update greenhouse crop growers

Updates on current greenhouse crop production and opportunities for diversifying crops are on the 1995 *Alberta Horticultural Congress* program.

"Cucumbers, tomatoes and poinsettias are established greenhouse crops in Alberta, and sessions address issues and interests related to those crops. As well, speakers will discuss new production opportunities," says Bill MacFarlane, the 1995

Cont'd on page 5

congress chair. The annual congress is Nov. 2 through 4 in Edmonton.

Growing medicinal herbs in a greenhouse is one example of potential new crops. Another sessions is titled "peppers and melons...new and proven greenhouse vegetables".

Controlling thrips and whiteflies is essential knowledge for greenhouse growers. Richard Lindquist will discuss biological control of these pests.

Among the other specific topics related to greenhouse production are general diagnostics for greenhouses; needs assessment and finances of greenhouse automation; greenhouse herb gardening; computerized fertilization; preventing problems in tomatoes and cucumbers; identification of poinsettia diseases; poly versus glass; and, lilies – greenhouse and beyond.

The full congress program includes a variety of horticulture production and business topics related to growing vegetables, fruits and greenhouse crops as well as for professional florists.

Featured speaker is Brian Minter of Minter Gardens and Minter Garden Centre of Chilliwack, B.C. He'll discuss destination marketing, horticulture for the turn of the century, growing a good product and selling more.

The congress is held in conjunction with the Prairie West Horticultural Trade Show and the annual Landscape Alberta Nursery Trades Association (LANTA) conference.

Full congress registration of $150 includes admission to the trade show as well as continental breakfasts each morning. Day rates are also available at $66 each for Thursday and Friday and $46 for Saturday.

Contact: Simone Demers Collins
(403)422-1789

Berry full line-up at Hort Congress

The 1995 *Alberta Horticultural Congress* is berry full of sessions for fruit growers.

"Our sessions cover the major fruits such as strawberries and saskatoons as well as emerging fruit crops such as black currants and gooseberries," says Bill MacFarlane, the 1995 congress chair. The annual congress is Nov. 2 through 4 in Edmonton.

One of the featured speakers is Marvin Pritts, a fruit and vegetable science specialist from Cornell University in New York State. Two sessions are about strawberries and both are on Nov. 4. One is about strawberry nutrition and the importance of nutrition balance. The other outlines factors affecting strawberry plant growth. He'll present a similar session on factors affecting raspberry plant growth on Nov. 3.

Also from the U.S. is Ed Mashburn, president of the International Ribes Association, from Northumberland, Pennsylvania. He'll discuss both black currant and gooseberry cultivars and production.

Lloyd Hausher, Alberta Agriculture fruit crops specialist, will provide a fruit crop research update.

Other fruit related sessions on the agenda include diversification crops in shelterbelt research, establishing low maintenance shelterbelts and orchards, biological control of the wooly elm aphid on saskatoons, and production and marketing of Everlasting Treasures.

The complete congress program offers sessions geared to vegetable, fruit, flower, herb and greenhouse growers as well as professional florists.

Complete congress registration is $150 after Oct. 15. It includes admission to the Prairie West Horticultural Trade Show. Day rates are also available at $66 each for Thursday and Friday and $46 for Saturday.

For registration and other information, call the congress office at (403)422-1789.

Contact: Simone Demers Collins
(403)422-1789

Paper discusses agricultural taxes and licenses

Stakeholders have until November 30 to respond to a discussion paper about business taxes and licenses for agricultural operations.

The paper, prepared by a consultant, was released by a special steering and technical advisory committee earlier this month. Copies are being mailed to stakeholders including all rural municipalities, a variety of industry organizations and others who expressed concerns about the issue.

The new Municipal Government Act (MGA) gave rural municipalities new abilities to tax. This included a business tax on agricultural operations. "It became an issue when one rural government proposed such a tax," explains Len Fullen of Alberta Agriculture's policy secretariat.

After concerns about such taxes were raised in the agricultural community, the Municipal Affairs minister asked municipalities to a take part in a consultation and review process before business taxes on agriculture were implemented. Overseeing the process is a steering committee that includes four Alberta Association of Municipal District and County (AAMD&C) zone representatives, and one each from the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA), the Alberta Cattle Commission, the Alberta Cattle Feeders Association and the Ag Forum. Their goal is a fair and balanced system.

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Copies of the discussion paper are available from Fullen in Edmonton by calling (403)427-5359.

Submissions should be made to the AAMD&C as noted in the covering letter of the discussion paper.

"The discussion paper is just part of the overall process. Since road damage was one local government's concern, we're working with Alberta Transportation to determine how agricultural use affects roads as well as with the industry to look at impacts of a tax increase on competitiveness," says Fullen.

Contact: Len Fullen
(403)427-5359

Basic tissue culture techniques at course

The basics of tissue culture techniques used in micropropagation will be taught in a three-day course Nov. 15 through 17.

"This technique is used for seed potatoes, fruit crops, landscape plant material and other selected species," explains Mohyuddin Mirza of the Crop Diversification Centre, North in Edmonton.

"The course objective is to teach participants about the day-to-day operation of a plant tissue culture laboratory," adds the Alberta Agriculture greenhouse extension specialist. "It will be of interest to seed potato, fruit, orchid and greenhouse growers or anyone else interested in setting up a tissue culture lab."

Principles of plant micropropagation, laboratory organization and operation, federal regulations of seed potato propagation and laboratory techniques such as mass multiplication, hardening, planting out and handling tissue culture plantlet will be covered.

"Participants will take part in lab demonstrations and receive practical training every afternoon," says Mirza who is also one of five course instructors. All the instructors work at the Crop Diversification Centre, North.

Registration is $250 plus GST. It includes all materials and lunch. The registration fee must accompany the application form. Phone registrations won't be accepted. Registrations are on a first come, first served basis. The registration deadline is Oct. 27.

Cheques can be made payable to the Fruit Growers Society of Alberta and mailed to the attention of Pat Fulton at the Crop Diversification Centre, North, R.R. 6, 17507 Fort Road, Edmonton, AB, T5B 4K3.

For more information, contact Mirza, Fulton or Vikram Bisht at (403)422-1789 in Edmonton. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Dr. M. Mirza
(403)422-1789

Agri-News briefs

Seed Technology Workshop Nov.15-17

The latest in seed developments, markets and equipment use are at the annual *Seed Technology Workshop* Nov. 15 through 17 at Olds College. Potential participants are seed cleaning plant personnel, seed growers, seed traders and seed marketers. Among the workshop topics are a 1995 weed management overview, weed wars and combat strategies, weed biology, seed identification, a registered seed establishment update, diversification in seed plants, pea cleaning and handling, and a tour of Transfeeders at Cremona. Early bird registration before Nov. 1 is $155. For more information about the workshop contact Bill Witbeck in Lacombe at (403)782-4641 or Annelise Doolaege in Olds at (403)556-8240. To register by phone using a credit card, call (403)556-4684.

Albertan receives Agribition scholarship

Christopher Solick of Lacombe is one of six recipients of 1995 Canadian Western Agribition youth scholarships. The scholarship program provides financial support and incentive for young people to pursue post-secondary and graduate education. Scholarship funding comes from a variety of Agribition activities including the junior market steer and junior market hog shows, and percentage donations from various other sales. Applicants must have been a Canadian West Agribition exhibitor. Applications are now available for 1996 scholarships. The application deadline is July 1, 1996. For more information, contact Marci Desroches in Regina at (306)565-6095.

Vegetable grower information sessions in November

Information sessions for experienced vegetable growers will be held in five locations across the province during late November. Brooks and Edmonton research trials will be reviewed. Also on the agenda are production problems and variety recommendations for 1996. The session dates and locations are: Nov. 20 at the Crop Diversification Centre, North in Edmonton; Nov. 21 at the Alberta Agriculture Camrose district office; Nov. 22 at the Alberta Agriculture Stettler district office; Nov. 23 at the Alberta Agriculture Strathmore district office; and, Nov. 24 at the Lethbridge Agriculture Research Centre. Registration is $2 at the door. Each session runs from 9 a.m. through 3 p.m. For more information, contact Belinda Choban in Edmonton at (403)422-1789 or Paul Ragan in Brooks at (403)362-3391. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

On Target at Josephburg marketing seminar

Staying on target to your markets is the theme of the 1995 *Josephburg Marketing Seminar*. The one-day seminar will be held Nov. 16 at the Moyer Recreation Centre in Josephburg. Outlooks on the agenda include feed wheat and barley with Charlie Pearson of UGG, peas with Blair Roth of Albert Pool, oats with Kris Olsen of Alberta, and canola with Errol Anderson of Palliser Grain. Also on the program are crop insurance changes, the changing face of grain transportation and how to use market information. The seminar is followed by the annual meeting of the Oat Producers Association of Alberta (OPAA) where the winner of the oat growers contest will be announced. Seminar registration is $30. To pre-register, call the Alberta Agriculture district office in Lamont at (403)895-2219.

Dairy awards of distinction presented Oct. 28

Provincial Dairy Awards of Distinction will be presented to William Nichol of Lethbridge and Jim and Mac Clark of Carstairs on Oct. 28. The awards will be presented during the Westerner Dairy Showcase in Red Deer. Nicol, now 84, is a leading dairy farmer and citizen in the Lethbridge area. His son and grandson continue to farm and run the dairy operation that now spans four generations. Jim and Mac Clark sold their Acme Holstein herd and dairy equipment in 1993, but remain committed to the dairy industry and its organizations. In 1985, they received Holstein Canada's Master Breeder Award. The Clark family travelled the show circuit starting in 1966. Both Nichol and the Clarks have a long-time association with 4-H as well as other community activities. The awards are sponsored by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and UFA. For more information, contact the Westerner Exposition Association at (403)343-7800.

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AGRI-NEWS

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Partnership publishes fuel booklet

One of Alberta's major farm fuel suppliers and Alberta Agriculture have teamed up to produce a booklet about fuel storage and handling.

"The publication provides information to help farmers use gasoline and diesel fuel safely," says John Chang of Alberta Agriculture's engineering services branch. Chang co-ordinated the project with the United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative Limited (UFA).

"It's a general guide on how to deal with the legal, financial and health implications of storing and handling farm fuel," he adds.

Storing and Handling Fuel on the Farm compares different types of storage tanks by costs, maintenance, risks and other factors. "This illustrated section shows on-farm storage options that safely maintain fuel quality and minimize losses," he says. "There are also guidelines for proper tank installation."

A section about reducing risks covers fire, leaks, spills, theft, contamination, evaporation, deterioration, transportation and small container storage. "The booklet also recommends inventory control as a way to detect leaks. A procedure is described," notes Chang.

As well, emergency procedures for fire, leaks and spills are outlined.

Alberta farms have an estimated fuel storage capacity of at least 250 million litres and use over 800 million litres of farm fuel every year. Those volumes make both environmental risks and financial liability high.

"Farmers are subject to the provincial Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act," notes Chang. This legislation supports and promotes protection, enhancement and wise use of the environment. Environmental pollution through a spill or leak can result in prosecution, unless due diligence – or taking all reasonable steps to prevent an offense – can be shown.

Fuel spills or leaks can cause severe environmental pollution and cleaning up is expensive, often ranging from tens to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"Banks and lending agencies recognize that fact and more and more loan applications require an environmental assessment with specific questions about fuel storage," he adds. "Insurance companies also ask about fuel storage and handling when they assess risk levels."

Copies of the booklet are available at UFA bulk fuel depots and Alberta Agriculture district offices across the province.

Contact: John Chang
(403)427-2181

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News™ is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Watch the information on your own video

The Lively Calf is one of the most popular videos produced by Alberta Agriculture, and like over 120 other department-produced videos can be bought for your own home library.

All of the available titles are listed in a catalogue. The catalogue is organized into 11 different categories including livestock and crop production, engineering, food, promotion, agricultural education and management. Each video has a brief description of its subject and content.

"Each video title is individually priced, and prices range from $25 to over $50. Some series are available at a special price for the complete set," notes Ken Blackley, multi-media branch information officer. Discounts are available for three or more copies of the same video.

"The catalogue includes the most recent productions such as *The World Trading Game*, *The Rainbow Cafe*, *Producing a Cattle Show* and *Iron Beasts*. There are also popular titles such as *The Green Cow* and *Basic Horse Training*," he adds.

Order forms are included in the catalogue. Catalogues are available from the central multi-media library in Edmonton by calling (403)427-2127 or writing Multi-Media Library, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, 1st Floor, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Videos are also available for loan through Alberta Agriculture district office video libraries and the central multi-media library in Edmonton. Annual library memberships are $12 for individuals and $25 for corporations or institutions. Over 800 titles are available. The 1995-96 complete multi-media library catalogue will be available shortly.

"A library membership gives you the opportunity to preview all of the videos that are for sale," notes Blackley.

Contact: *Ken Blackley*
(403)427-2127

Alumni benefits for FBMI course participants

About 9,000 Alberta farmers are a group of alumni who will reap more than just training benefits from their past participation in Canada/Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI) courses.

"We've just mailed alumni cards, information and new FBMI course calendars to everyone who received FBMI sponsored training over the last three years," says Craig Smith, the southern region FBMI representative.

Smith and his four other counterparts have worked with private sector agribusinesses to put together a tangible reward system for FBMI program alumni. "The response to our initial contact has been terrific," he says.

"Even though some businesses weren't in a position to participate because of their budget year cycle, they were very supportive of the concept and recognized the value of farm management training," he adds.

Alumni benefits include discounts when buying a computer and reduced charges for satellite services as well as reduced fees for courses. "It's important to note these benefits are from the private sector and aren't public funds," notes Smith.

Questions about the alumni program or new courses coming this fall can be answered by one of the regional FBMI representatives. They are: Smith in Glenwood at (403)626-3448 or fax (403)362-3461; Delin Sheehan-Millang, central region, in Stettler at (403)742-7500 or fax (403)742-7527; Nan Barlett, Peace region, in Fairview at (403)835-4288 or fax (403)835-5332; Arla Trueblood, northwest region, in Dapp at phone or fax (403)945-3745; and, Elma Herde, northeast region, in Ardmore at (403)826-1956 (phone and fax).

Information is also available from the farm business management branch in Olds. Call Karen Carson at (403)556-4322.

Contact: *Craig Smith*
(403)626-3448

New FBMI season launched

With a blitz of course calendars in the mail, the new training season of Canada/Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI) is underway.

"Our 1995-96 season offers a wide range of farm management courses in marketing, production, finance, computer applications, human resources and ownership planning," says Craig Smith, the southern region FBMI representative.

Over 50 private sector companies submitted project proposals. "Our program partners were selected to meet local area needs, for overall competence and for cost-effective delivery," he notes.

"The 1995-96 program offers a selection of good quality farm management training courses throughout the province," he adds. Smith suggests contacting the program partner listed in the calendar for more information about a specific course.

Calendars were mailed last week to over 9,000 past FBMI training participants as well as to a comprehensive list of Alberta farmers.

Course calendars are also available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and the regional FBMI representatives. They

Cont'd on page 3

are: Smith in Glenwood at (403)626-3448 or fax (403)362-3461; Delin Sheehan-Millang, central region, in Stettler at (403)742-7500 or fax (403)742-7527; Nan Barlett, Peace region, in Fairview at (403)835-4288 or fax (403)835-5332; Arla Trueblood, northwest region, in Dapp at phone or fax (403)945-3745, and, Elma Herde, northeast region, in Ardmore at (403)826-1956 (phone and fax).

Information is also available from the farm business management branch in Olds. Call Karen Carson at (403)556-4322.

Contact *Craig Smith*
(403)626-3448

Seminar looks to farm financial success

Farmers will need strong management skills to be successful into the 21st century. Two one-day seminars in early November will provide tips and techniques for managing farm finances.

"Farm managers in the 21st century will have to be more responsive to the constantly changing marketplace," says Mark Bulger of the farm business management branch in Olds. "They'll need to stay abreast of both farm business and general economic trends and be aware of how those trends will affect their farms' financial performance.

"This seminar will give you practical aids you can apply now to improve your farm business and get prepared for what the future might bring," he adds.

The *Your Financial Success into the 21st Century* seminars will be held in Lethbridge on Nov. 2 and Red Deer on Nov.3. Both feature David Kohl, an agricultural finance professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. An experienced speaker and respected lecturer, Kohl will look at the various factors that affect a farm's profitability and solvency. This includes land values, interest rates, general economy, government payments and international trade.

Also on the seminar agenda are financial health indicators, managing debt, improving financing, working better with your lender and investment opportunities.

"This seminar is open to more than farm managers. It's also of interest to agricultural lenders, consultants and trainers," notes Bulger.

Seminar registration is only $46 and includes materials and lunch. The registration deadline is Oct. 27. Fees can be made payable to Lethbridge Community College and sent to Registration, Lethbridge Community College, 3000 College Drive S., Lethbridge, AB, T1K 1L6. Or, register by phone with a credit card by calling (403)320-3323.

Information brochures are available at Alberta Agriculture district offices.

The seminars are co-sponsored by the Canada-Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI), Alberta Agriculture and Lethbridge Community College with support from the Royal Bank and Canbra Foods.

For more information about the seminars, contact Bulger in Olds at (403)556-4249 or Ted Ford at (403)556-4218.

Contact *Mark Bulger* *Ted Ford*
(403)556-4249 *(403)556-4218*

Sessions by the bouquet at Hort Congress

There's a varied bouquet of flower related sessions at the annual Alberta Horticulture Congress Nov. 2 through 4 in Edmonton.

"Geraniums, poinsettias, lilies, cut flowers, impatiens and perennial plants are all on the congress agenda," says Bill MacFarlane, the 1995 congress chair.

Specific sessions cover a variety of production and management topics with information provided by experts from both Canada and the U.S. One of the featured speakers is Allan Hammer of Purdue University. He'll discuss bedding plant problems and solutions, lilies and potted crops, and cut flowers.

Another U.S. speaker is Mary Howsbeck of Michigan State's plant biology lab. Her topics are geranium problems and spotted virus in impatiens as well as tomato diseases.

Other flower-related topics include an update on the Alberta Flower and Herb Association and industry, tips and trends from the perennial plant symposium, general diagnostics for greenhouses, preserving flowers and herbs, identification of poinsettia diseases and lilies in the greenhouse and beyond.

The complete congress program offers sessions geared to vegetable, fruit, flower, herb and greenhouse growers as well as professional florists. Featured speaker is Brian Minter of Minter Gardens and Minter Garden Centre of Chilliwack, B.C. He'll discuss destination marketing, horticulture for the turn of the century, growing a good product and selling more.

As well, there's a Christmas design workshop on the afternoon of Nov. 4. Three out-of-province designers will share their talents in the two hour workshop.

Flowers Canada (Alberta region) also holds its business meeting on Nov. 4. Flowers Canada is also sponsoring the wind-up congress event, an AIDS benefit called *Home for the Holidays*. Holiday bouquets, garlands and centrepieces designed by three internationally known floral artists will be auctioned.

Cont'd on page 4

The congress is held in conjunction with the Prairie West Horticultural Trade Show and the annual Landscape Alberta Nursery Trades Association (LANTA) conference.

Full congress registration of $150 includes admission to the trade show as well as continental breakfasts each morning. Day rates are also available at $66 each for Thursday and Friday and $46 for Saturday.

For more information, contact Simone Demers Collins in Edmonton at (403)422-1789.

Contact: Simone Demers Collins
(403)422-1789

Getting customers to the farm

How ya gonna get 'em down on the farm is one Alberta Horticulture Congress session designed specifically for market gardeners.

Gail and Klaus Berger, also known as Farmer Klaus and Farmer Gail, will present a session that answers that question on Nov.4. That's the final day of the 1995 congress that runs Nov. 2 through 4 in Edmonton.

"They'll make a second presentation that has another interesting title – Omigod the big yellow bus is here," notes Bill MacFarlane, the 1995 congress chair. The Bergers operate The Apple Farm in Yarrow, B.C.

"A variety of the many vegetable, fruit and flower production congress sessions will also be of interest to market gardeners," adds MacFarlane.

Successful Alberta market gardeners will also make presentations at the congress. Jacqueline and Eldon Galloway of Fort Saskatchewan will talk about both production at and marketing of their business, Everlasting Treasures. As well, Allen Schernus of The Garden in Calgary will discuss how a u-fish can compliment a u-pick operation.

"Because many market gardeners sell at farmers' markets, they might also be interested in the farmers' market workshop on Nov. 4," he notes.

The complete congress program offers sessions geared to vegetable, fruit, flower, herb and greenhouse growers as well as professional florists. The congress is held in conjunction with the Prairie West Horticultural Trade Show and the annual Landscape Alberta Nursery Trades Association (LANTA) conference.

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For more information, contact Simone Demers Collins in Edmonton at (403)422-1789.

Contact: Simone Demers Collins
(403)422-1789

Heap of vegetables served at Hort Congress

Vegetable growers can count on a generous serving of vegetable related topics at the 1995 Alberta Horticulture Congress Nov. 2 through 4 in Edmonton.

"We have both specific and general topics on the program agenda," notes Bill MacFarlane, the 1995 congress chair.

General sessions include a production research update and vegetable trials report and recommendations. The speaker for both sessions is Alberta Agriculture vegetable specialist Paul Ragan of the Crop Diversification Centre, South in Brooks.

Belinda Choban of the Crop Diversification Centre, North in Edmonton will discuss an early sizing of carrots project and present the results and recommendations.

More specific sessions include tomato diseases, preventing tomato and cucumber problems, the expanded vegetable crop insurance program, potatoes for direct marketers, and market expectations and the importance of quality.

The complete congress program offers sessions geared to vegetable, fruit, flower, herb and greenhouse growers as well as professional florists. The congress is held in conjunction with the Prairie West Horticultural Trade Show and the annual Landscape Alberta Nursery Trades Association (LANTA) conference.

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For more information, contact Simone Demers Collins in Edmonton at (403)422-1789.

Contact: Simone Demers Collins
(403)422-1789

Agri-News briefs

Canola producers regional meeting Nov. 7

The Alberta Canola Producers Commission will hold a regional meeting Nov. 7 at the Westlock Community hall. The day-long meeting features a range of production and management updates. Canola fertility, a market review, a commission update, a local variety update, regional trial results, a crop production centre report, canola fertility and a blackleg survey update are on the agenda. Registration is $15 and the registration deadline is Friday, Nov. 3. To register or for more information, contact Bill Chapman in Westlock at (403)349-4465 or John Hladky in Morinville at (403)939-4351.

ACC fall elections begin today

Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) fall elections and producer meetings begin today (Oct. 23) and continue through to Nov. 9. A total of 43 meetings are scheduled. Producers will be updated on research projects, national beef advertising and ACC committee activities. Zone directors have details on the election meetings. For more information, contact: zone one, Arno Doerksen in Gem at (403)641-2498; zone two, Kim Hanson in Cardston at (403)653-2487; zone three, Jim Turner in Cochrane at (403)932-5278; zone four, Tim Andrew in Youngstown at (403)779-2273; zone five, Dale Wilson in Rosedale at (403)823-4856; zone six, Arnold Hanson in Viking at (403)336-2598; zone seven, Charles Westra in Gibbons at (403)998-9083; zone eight, Karl Schneider in Mannville at (403)763-2447; or, zone nine, Cec Jardine in Valleyview at (403)524-3507.

What's eating your profit seminar

Parasite control in cattle is the subject of the *What's Eating Your Profit* seminar Nov. 16. The seminar will be held at the Drayton Valley Omniplex. Keynote speaker is veterinarian Tim Guychon. For more information, contact Rola Hogan, M.D. of Brazeau agricultural fieldman, at (403)542-7777 or Maureen Schwab at (403)542-5930.

National Farm Women's Conference in Newfoundland

Farm women from across Canada will be in St. John's, Newfoundland Nov. 8 through 12 for the seventh annual National Farm Women's Conference. The conference theme is "into the future with technology". Program sessions include the biotechnology in food products, food safety issues, how to deal with family violence, consumer trends in food purchases, fair return on agricultural products, survival of the family farm in a multi-national world, protecting the agricultural environment, business and social interaction skills and how women's roles are changing. Delegates will also get together with a group of Russian farm women. Ralph Goodale, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada minister, is scheduled as the closing banquet speaker. For more information about the conference, contact Juanita Lester in Mt. Pearl, Newfoundland at (709)364-3980.

First national dairying conference Nov. 14-15

Two-information packed days are planned at the first National Conference on Dairying Nov. 14 and 15 in Toronto. Program subjects include whether or not to expand, what to expect from the U.S. and Mexico, performance breeding, herd health, management software, succession planning, new parlours, a BST panel, dairy management panels, Internet and cow comfort. There's also an associated trade show. The conference will be held at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel in Toronto and is timed during the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. For more information about the conference, contact Kerrie-Sue Lang at (905)342-2099.

National Library of Canada
Bibliotheque nationale du Canada
3 3286 51011 1764

Forage Summit another national first

Canada's first national meeting of dairy and forage producers, scientists, researchers and government officials will take place Nov. 11 through 13 in Edmonton. At Forage Summit'95 they'll exchange views and ideas about the needs and future of forage production in Canada. Sponsored by the Canadian Forage Council (CFC), the conference and trade show is designed to bring together seed producers, farmers, processors, exporters and international users. The conference is also billed as a way to raise the profile of the sector and stimulate research. For more information, contact the CFC in Calgary at (403) 244-4487 or fax (403) 244-2340.

Woodlot workshop Oct. 24-25 in Grande Prairie

What to do with your farm woodlot is the subject of a two-day workshop and field tour Oct. 24 and 25 in Grande Prairie. During the first day, participants will hear about planning how to use forested land, guidelines and regulations, tax implications, inventory and harvest layout, contract and legal issues, marketing timber from your land, forming an association and a landowner's experience. Day two's field tour will show safety and logging, forest inventory, a tree nursery, a tree seed orchard, forest management and a logging and sawmill demonstration. For more information, contact the Alberta Agriculture district office in Grande Prairie at (403) 538-5260.

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AGRI-NEWS

October 30, 1995

CANADIANA

NOV 29 1995

It's a green and white celebration during National 4-H Week

Show your 4-H colors during *National 4-H Week* urges Walter Paszkowski.

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's minister is already wearing his button. The national week starts Nov. 6 and runs through Nov. 12.

"The 4-H movement has brought leadership and development programs to Alberta communities for more than 75 years. Our young people are trying new things, learning new skills and making new friends, " says Paszkowski.

"4-H has contributed to the development of our greatest resource, the youth of our province," he adds.

The national awareness week provides an opportunity for 4-H members and leaders to profile 4-H in their communities. In this province, Alberta Treasury Branches, one of 4-H's proud sponsors, is recognizing clubs by inviting them to put up displays in local branches.

Alberta 4-H membership is over 7,600 strong, plus boasts another 2,500 volunteer leaders. The province's 4-Hers put the organization's motto, "learn to do by doing", into motion in over 30 different projects from traditional livestock and homemaking activities to conservation and computer projects.

As well, many members also participate in a variety of district, regional, provincial and national camps, shows, competitions, exchanges and events. Current and former 4-H members can also apply for more than 80 post-secondary scholarships worth close to $45,000.

"This year our program marked a number of special events and achievements," says Ted Youck, head of the home economics and 4-H branch. "For example, both the provincial Conservation Camp and the Montana exchange celebrated their 30th anniversary. The first Horse Classic, a provincial light horse event, was held in August. As well, there was record participation in a number of provincial livestock shows," he notes.

Also of note, nine-year olds are now eligible to be 4-H members. They can be active members until they're 21 years old, then are encouraged to continue their 4-H involvement in other ways, such as club leadership.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News™ is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Some Alberta 4-Hers will go to two national conferences held annually during the special week. Both members and leaders will join their counterparts from across Canada in Toronto. [See separate story.]

"For the first time, we'll also be sending our provincial public speaking winner to a national competition," adds Youck. Nathan Eshpeter of Daysland will speak on agriculture and the information highway.

In 1994, there were more than 44,000 members and 12,000 volunteer leaders in the national 4-H movement.

Contact: *Brian Hlus/Ron Glen* *(403)427-2137* *Carol Sullivan* *(403)427-2541*

Note to editors and news directors: Attached is a list of 4-H ambassadors and key leaders. They can provide you with more information about 4-H in your area.

1995 4-H Key Leaders

District	Name	Town	Phone No.
High River	Joanne Gourley	Blackie	684-3750
Mountainview	Sharon Dyer	Bowden	556-3338/ 224-3832
Mountainview	Pat Pringle	Didsbury	335-4087
Rockyview	Janice Phillips	Airdrie	948-3120
Strathmore	Norma Katterhagen	Rockyford	533-2231
Three Hills	John Parker	Three Hills	443-2131
Coronation	Carol Tkach	Coronation	578-2033
Drumheller	Lynda Hewson	Delia	364-2298/ 364-3953
Flagstaff	Carol Arntzen	Sedgewick	384-2180
Hanna	Melvin Bingeman	Oyen	676-2181/ Fax 676-2181
Provost	Lyanne Almberg	Czar	857-2450
Stettler	Anita Mappin	Byemoor	579-2395
Beaver	Don Hultholm	Holden	688-2148
Lac La Biche	Doris Burdek	Lac La Biche	623-2571
Lamont	Judy Hrudey	Andrew	365-2426
Minburn	Arleen Melnyk	Innisfree	592-2136
Smoky Lake	Elaine Lyster	Vilna	636-2007
St. Paul	Joanne Fontaine	St. Paul	645-2452
Two Hills	Vicki Ewanciw	Myrnam	366-2429
Vermilion River	Rose Jacula	Vermilion	853-2364
Vermilion River	Richard Stone	Kitscoty	846-2646
Wainwright	Raleigh & Verna Kett	Wainwright	842-2476
Barrhead	Judy & George Andrews	Barrhead	674-4287
Drayton Valley	Ray Holmgren	Carnwood	542-2259
Evansburg	Susanne Slemko	Mayerthorpe	727-3688
Lac SteAnne	Adele Knudson	Sangudo	785-2724 (b)/ 785-3366 (h)
Leduc	Sharon Lawrence	Warburg	789-2117
Leduc	Winnie vanGinkel	Leduc	986-0645
Parkland	Brian Henkel	Duffield	963-3892
Strathcona	Shirley Story	Sherwood Park	467-5930 (b)/ 449-4696 (h)
Sturgeon	Pam Fald	Stony Plain	963-2071
Thorhild	Grace Melowsky	Waskatenau	358-2440
Westlock	Pat Borduzak	Vimy	961-2251
Westlock	Joy French	Westlock	349-2523
Grande Prairie	Donna Conrad	Grande Prairie	567-2233
High Prairie	Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier	Donnelly	925-2130
MacKenzie	Frances Stewart	Grimshaw	332-4959
North Peace	Hazel Lubeck	Worsely	685-2405
Valleyview	Dale Smith	Valleyview	524-2790 (h)/ 524-3301 (b)
Bow Island	Maureen Laidlaw	Bow Island	545-2740
Cardston	Joan Smith	Cardston	653-2482
Fort Macleod	Marion Van Sluys	Fort Macleod	553-2610
Lethbridge	Barbara Bond	Lethbridge	381-0864
Medicine Hat	Donna Rieger	Medicine Hat	839-2342 (h)/ 529-1102 (b)
Newall	Louise Beasley	Wardlow	566-2248
Pincher Creek	Lynnette Hochstein	Pincher Creek	627-2464
Taber	Val Anderson	Taber	223-8532
Vulcan	Marie Logan	Lomond	792-3696
Warner	Warren Cunningham	Milk River	647-3507
Camrose	Faith Gabert	Edberg	877-2427 (h)/ 372-3731 (b)
Lacombe	Lorraine Neal	Lacombe	782-2649
Ponoka	Bernice Simpson	Bentley	843-6251
Red Deer	Shirley Dawley	Red Deer	346-2523 (h)/ 346-4450 (b)
Rocky MtnHouse	Gerald Kujala	Eckville	746-5642
Wetaskiwin	Linda Rasmuson	Gwynne	352-3513

1995 4-H Ambassadors

Name	Town	Phone Number
Crista Anderson	Taber	223-8532
Jodi Cunningham	Milk River	647-3507
Tracy Gardner	Olds	556-7118
Lia Lundren	Vulcan	485-6782
Andrea Dear	Wetaskiwin	352-0576
Alison Gabert	Edberg	877-2427
Charlene Preston	Hanna	854-3789
Russell Mappin	Byemoor	579-2395
Nathan Eshpeter	Daysland	374-2403
Amy Wisniewski	Hairy Hill	768-2272
Connie Jacula	Vermilion	853-5263
Carla Dubovsky	Busby	349-5582
Curtis Smith	Fawcett	954-2257
Ryan Shumard	Grande Prairie	766-2413
Ben Meuser	Wanham	694-2425
Kristy Mastel	Gwynne	352-3513
Patricia LaLonde	Nanton	646-5865
Wendy Gano	Crossfield	946-5340
Travis Shand	Cremona	637-3937
Kim Denis	Lacombe	782-2201
Karri Solick	Lacombe	885-4348
Kyle Bruggencate	Coronation	578-3590
Julie Hadwin	Consort	577-2122
Kathi McCarty	Vegreville	632-7433
Becky Mitchell	Kitscoty	846-2689
Shane Menzak	Vegreville	658-2128
Colin Strauss	Edmonton	430-1620
Billie-Dawn Chubb	Bon-Accord	921-3807
Krista Lubec	Fairview	835-2816
Gayle Hegland	Wembley	766-2450

CELEBRATE
NATIONAL 4-H WEEK
CANADA

Alberta 4-H delegates celebrate at national events

More than a dozen Albertans will represent the province's 4-H program at two national conferences during *National 4-H Week*.

Six 4-Hers, five volunteer leaders and two 4-H staff will be in Toronto Nov. 8 through 12 for the annual conferences. As well, another 4-Her will take part in a national public speaking competition.

Crista Anderson of Taber, Carla Dubovsky of Busby, Laureen Hall of Olds, Shelanda Kujala of Eckville, Mark Vogel of Foremost and Susan Wacowich of Redwater will represent Alberta at the 64th annual National 4-H Conference. They'll be accompanied by Henry Wiegman, provincial 4-H livestock specialist. Six delegates from each province as well as participants from the U.S. and United Kingdom will attend the conference. "Through group discussions, listening to guest lecturers and participating in group activities they'll deal with issues and concerns related to their vision of the future," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H programs specialist.

Five Alberta leaders will attend the 16th annual National Volunteer Leaders' Conference. They are Elaine Almberg of Czar, Doug Hegleland of Wembley, Greg Hawkwood of Cochrane, Marianne Miller of Red Deer and Bertha Kasbohm of Westlock. Another 4-H staff member, Kathy Hougham is the conference's assistant program director.

"Both sets of delegates will take a mini-tour of Toronto and attend the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. They'll also have some joint sessions during the conference," notes Stark.

National 4-H Week is Nov. 6 through 12. [See separate article on the awareness week.] For more information, contact Carol Sullivan in Edmonton at (403)422-4444. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact:	Marguerite Stark	Carol Sullivan
	(403)948-8510	(403)422-4444

Joint agreement boosts forage and beef

Both Alberta forage and beef sectors will benefit from a joint agreement between the federal and provincial governments.

Federal agriculture minister Ralph Goodale and his provincial counterpart Walter Paszkowski recently signed the Canada/Alberta Forage-Beef Agreement that supports the red meat industry.

A core group of researchers and extension personnel-the forage/beef group-will work from one location, Lacombe. Lacombe will become a resource centre for forage and beef cow management research and technology transfer. Both Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development have research facilities in Lacombe

"From an economic standpoint, one centre provides cost efficiencies and eliminates infrastructure duplication. The agreement itself will help Alberta producers take advantage of increased opportunities in the slaughter cattle market," says Bob Nelson, forage unit program leader at Alberta Agriculture's Field Crop Development Centre, who is also a member of the forage/beef group.

Alberta's cattle industry is expected to grow significantly over the next few years. Two major processing plants plan to double their capacity. Although the provincial cattle herd is already at record numbers, more slaughter cattle will be required. Increased cattle production will require increased forage production as forage is the main food source of beef cattle.

"Our group will be guided by priorities set through industry consultation," notes Nelson. "A close working relationship and joint industry projects will be key to the forage/beef group's success.

"Alberta's Forage Initiative and forage needs assessment has provided some direction. Forage and beef producers already indicated forage research and technology transfer both need to be strengthened and linked," he adds.

The agreement's objective is to develop pasture management, beef/cow management systems, overwintering beef cow practices, forage harvesting and stored feed practices that allow producers to reduce per unit production costs and effectively provide the processing industry with a consistent supply of high quality cattle.

"We've also set some initial goals within that framework," he says. This includes improving pasture management systems, extending the grazing season, reducing herd overwintering costs, improving beef herd management efficiency and transfering new technology effectively to both forage and beef cattle sectors.

Contact:	Bob Nelson	Peter Burnett
	(403)782-4641	(403)782-8123

Expert rates Alberta poultry, horse plants as excellent

A world expert on livestock handling and processing describes a new state of the art poultry handling and transport system in Alberta as a highlight of her survey of small and medium sized Canadian meat packing plants.

Temple Grandin also gave Alberta's horse plant an excellent rating. The animal behaviorist from Colorado State University visited 21 plants in Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia this

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summer in a follow-up study to a 1993 survey of Canada's 11 largest beef and pork plants.

"AFAC commends Alberta's packing plants for their open door approach towards these surveys," notes Susan Kitchen of the Alberta Foundation for Animal Care (AFAC). Survey participation was voluntary.

"Their co-operation is an indication of the industry's willingness to improve animal handling and well being. There's an attitude within the industry that if it needs fixing, then we'll do that," she adds.

While Grandin found animal handling at most plants to be either excellent or acceptable, deficiencies in equipment or facility design were identified as the main reason for plants not meeting acceptable standards.

However, as part of the survey process Grandin advised plant management on how to make any necessary improvements. "In most cases, Dr. Grandin reported changes could be made easily and economically," says Kitchen. "I know for a fact that any recommendations that were made for Alberta plants have been acted on."

Grandin also noted Canadian meat packing plant handle livestock better and the attitude of Canadians about animal welfare is better than in the U.S.

Recognized as a world-wide authority on humane handling and processing of livestock, Grandin also designs livestock handling equipment as well as provides training and consulting across North America. Over half of Canada's beef cattle currently pass through pre-slaughter handling systems designed by Grandin. She is also an honourary member of AFAC.

Contact: *Susan Kitchen*
(403)777-0445

Design your own fertility/seeding system featured at conference

New technology for crop management will be the focus of a two-day conference and trade show at Lethbridge on November 16 and 17.

The second big event organized by the Southern Alberta Conservation Association (SACA), the program promises practical information on innovations related to seeding equipment, weed control and fertility management. SACA is an umbrella group for Conservation 2000 producer clubs located in southern Alberta.

"The conference and trade show will focus on fertilizer management and the integration of weed control in reduced tillage systems. We have a great line-up of farmer panels and speakers from industry and government. It will be an information packed two days," says Cam Schmitt, Milk River farmer and current SACA president.

Topic areas include developments in ground opener and packing system designs, research into anhydrous ammonia applied at the time of seeding, the effect of minimum tillage on weed problems, crop protein management options and an update on precision farming trials in Alberta.

Featured speaker is Roger Veseth, a research agronomist with the University of Idaho. He'll discuss some new ideas on crop rotations. Veseth has written and edited several crop production books and manuals.

Anyone registering before November 10 will be eligible for major door prizes at the conference. Two day registration is $30 and a single day is $20. A $10 late fee will be added after November 10.

Event sponsors are Sherritt Fertilizers, Westco Fertilizer, the Canada Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (CAESA) and the Alberta Reduced Tillage Initiative (ARTI).

Co-organizers with SACA are the Lethbridge and District Exhibition and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. The conference will be held at the Lethbridge Exhibition Pavilion. For more information or to register, please call (403)381-5119 or (403)381-5237.

Contact: *Cam Schmitt* *Orville Yanke*
(403)647-2157 *(403)527-0145*

Workshop brings conservation technology to the farm

Bringing conservation technology to the farm is the theme of a workshop organized by the Parkland Agriculture Research Initiative (PARI).

The PARI workshop will be held in Saskatoon starting Nov. 26 and run through the 28.

PARI is funded by Canada's Green Plan. One of its roles is to research and validate soil and water conservation technology for Parkland soils on the Canadian Prairies. Another PARI role is to effectively transfer this technology to the farming community.

"This workshop provides an excellent opportunity to meet with leading producers, specialists and scientists from across the Prairies and discuss information development and transfer as well as future directions of conservation technology," says John Hermans, head of Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch.

Workshop sessions include descriptions of PARI projects such as precision farming, conservation tillage, demonstration farms and integrating agriculture, environment and wildlife. A panel will discuss information development and transfer.

Cont'd on page 5

In breakout sessions, participants will see computer software – programs developed by PARI projects – demonstrations and take in poster presentations. The software programs were designed to ssist conservation management decisions.

The direction of conservation on the parklands will wrap up the workshop.

Early registration, before November 3, is $95. The fee goes up to $120 after that date. This fee includes most meals as well as one copy of the **PARI Factbook**, in both booklet and diskette form. Additional copies of the **PARI Factbook** are available at $25 per copy.

To register, contact Watermark Communications in Lethbridge at phone/fax (403)320-697.

PARI partners are Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, the University of Alberta, the University of Saskatchewan and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Contact: John Hermans
(403)422-4385

MAP the dates January 30 to February 1

Keep your edge and mark the dates now for the 1996 Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP'96) conference from Jan. 30 through Feb. 1 in Red Deer.

"Over its 17-year history, MAP has established itself as the premier farm management conference in Western Canada. In 1996 we're following in that tradition with an exciting, informative program," says Doug Barlund, 1996 MAP conference chair.

MAP takes pride on being leading edge and the 1996 keynote speaker reflects that focus. Lowell Catlett bills himself as an ag futurist. He'll look at emerging trends likely to affect society, careers and lives at the beginning of the 21st century. The agricultural economics and agricultural business professor is an award winning teacher, co-author of textbooks and advisor/consultant to U.S. government departments.

"Dr. Catlett's keynote address has the same intriguing title as one of his books, **Green Cows, Quaggas and Mummies**," notes Barlund of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.

Another featured speaker is Larry Martin, chair of the Agrifood Competitiveness Council and Agrifood Network. Martin will discuss opportunities and impediments in Canada's agrifood industry.

"Our program's range of select-a-sessions covers a broad range of market, business management, economic and human resource topics. Our 1996 theme is *master your markets* with a focus on seizing opportunity in a rapidly changing marketplace," adds Barlund.

Among the program specifics are market intelligence, market outlooks, new enterprise ventures, business relationships, ethics in agriculture policy, and, water, environment and land use.

Conference information is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) offices across the province. Registration and conference details are also available through the MAP hotline by calling 1-800-387-6030.

Contact: Doug Barlund
(403)556-4245

Alberta/Montana share views on co-operation

Alberta and Montana continue to build a better trade relationship through our ongoing discussions says Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's minister.

"We share many of the same opportunities and concerns," says Walter Paszkowski. His comments came after Oct. 13 and 14 meetings between Alberta legislators and agriculture department officials and their counterparts in Montanta. Montana's director of agriculture, Ralph Peck, invited the Alberta delegation.

"Our Alberta delegation was very well received in Montana by both government and industry representatives," adds Paszkowski. "I was concerned we might meet with some negative views of Canada's agricultural trade policies; however, I was pleased to see Montana producers' strong desire to work with Alberta to establish an environment that encourages the free flow of agriculture and food products. Montana and Alberta both realize cooperation is necessary to respond effectively to global challenges, and working together will result in mutual benefits."

A series of meetings gave the minister the opportunity to tell Montana state officials, farmers and farm organizations about Alberta's progress in adapting to the GATT and NAFTA trade regimes. Alberta wanted to inform its neighbour about proposed changes to farm safety nets which will make our programs more trade neutral. Also discussed were changes to Canada's National Transportation Act and the end of the western grain transportation subsidy.

In addition, officials discussed Alberta's progress in value-added processing. Paszkowski notes there will be opportunities for all producers to meet the increased demand from the expansion of Alberta processing facilities. Roundtable discussions also included issues concerning meat inspection and grading, farm fertilizers, pesticides, feed and other grains.

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"Montana producers expressed a common objective to have a level playing field on which producers can make their economic decisions," added Mr. Paszkowski. "We need to resolve cross border issues before they become trade irritants because ultimately, costs associated with bottlenecks and red tape are borne solely by producers."

The delegation met with Montana Governor Marc Racicot, Senator Tom Beck, agriculture director Peck, agriculture administrator Will Kissinger and many state legislators. Montana industry groups included the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee, the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce, the Montana Grain Growers Board, the Montana Grain Elevators Association, and leaders in the cattle, sheep, wool and ethanol industries.

Contact:	*Ron Glen*	*Barry Mehr*
	(403) 427-2137	*(403) 427-2442*

Alberta Agriculture appointments

Special crops breeder/agronomist looks to increasing farmer options

Alberta Agriculture's new crop development unit has added a special crops breeder/agronomist to its staff. Stan Blade will be based at the Crop Diversification Centre North in Edmonton.

"These are interesting days for people involved in Alberta's agricultural industry," says Blade. "Producers are faced with a range of issues which will have a tremendous impact on the way they do business in the future."

Blade's work with the new crop development unit will help producers make choices about special crops. The new crop development unit's mandate is to provide information to farmers. His research will include agronomic work on special crop production as well as varietal development and testing for some species.

Although Blade grew up a on dairy farm near Millet, south of Edmonton, he's spent the last several years in West Africa. He worked as a plant breeder with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (UNDP/FAO).

"It is true that people sometimes have to leave home before they appreciate all of its amazing qualities," he says. "I have always been proud of Alberta, but my fascination with the province has only increased during my absence."

Blade says he's particularly impressed by the agricultural industry's growth and farmers' resilience to change buffeting them from all sides.

"Farmers are willing to incorporate new crops and production methods if they make economic sense," he notes, "And, are eager to make informed and aggressive marketing decisions. These decisions are being implemented while maintaining stewardship of our land."

To get a clearer picture of current work in progress, Blade has visited several researchers across the Prairies. "Research is advancing on several fronts, but there is a clear opportunity to make progress by concentrating research in the special crop area," he says. Special crops, also called alternate or new crops, include a wide range of grain legumes (pulses), herbs, spices and fibres.

As well as providing information to farmers, Blade wants to hear from producers about their concerns and interests. "This will help set research objectives," he says.

Blade can be reached in Edmonton at (403)422-1789, fax (403)422-6096 or e-mail blade@agric.gov.ab.ca.

New crops specialist in Valleyview

Gordon Parker brings a wealth of experience to the unique Alberta Agriculture crops specialist position in Valleyview.

"This position isn't a single specialist for one type of crop, rather a combination of cereals, oilseeds and forages," notes Parker who came to the Peace region from Saskatchewan.

Over the last 30 years, Parker worked for both the provincial and federal agricultural departments in Saskatchewan. He started as a provincial agricultural representative after graduating from the University of Saskatchewan's BSc in agriculture program in 1964. In 1976 he became a specialist.

In 1982 he moved to Agriculture Canada's Swift Current research station and was the head of the applied research and technology transfer section. His tenure there included a two-year CIDA secondment to Pakistan between 1985 and 1987. Parker worked on developing rainfed crop farming.

While the northern Peace country geography is new to him, the type of work he'll be doing isn't. This includes working closely with local producers, their associations, agribusinesses and other individuals and groups involved in the agri-food industry.

Parker grew up near Broadview, about 100 miles east of Regina, in southeastern Saskatchewan. He says he has found the northern Alberta conditions fascinating. "I didn't expect it to be getting too dry, especially for canola, to harvest," he notes. Soil moisture conditions of a dry surface and very wet eight to 10 inches down also intrigue him.

Parker can be reached in Valleyview at (403)542-3301. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Agri-News briefs

Prairie West Hort Trade Show sold out

With 145 exhibitors from as far away as Texas, the 1995 *Prairie West Horticulture Trade Show* offers the horticulture industry a wide-variety of product and service displays. The trade show runs Nov. 2 and 3 in Edmonton at the Mayfield Inn and Trade Centre. This is the third year for a joint show of the Landscape Alberta Nursery Trades Association (LANTA) and the Alberta Horticultural Congress. The trade show is the largest of its kind on the Prairies and attracts several industry sectors including greenhouse, landscape, nursery, garden centres, sod producers, fruit growers, flower growers and other horticultural business groups. More than 1,000 horticultural business owners are expected to attend the two-day show. For more information, contact Nigel Bowles in Edmonton at (403)489-1991.

4-H homemakers get "what's new"

4-H homemaking leaders from across Alberta recently met at the 4-H Centre at Battle Lake to get the word on what's new for 4-H homemaking members this fall. "Thanks to the sponsorship of Beatrice Foods and Alberta Agriculture, this workshop has become an excellent resource to the volunteers that work directly with young people in 4-H clubs," says Penny Wilkes, provincial 4-H home economics and leadership development specialist. Leaders need an opportunity to come together, discuss approaches to working with young people and collect new ideas from their peers she adds. "We have a good mix of new and seasoned leaders," says Wilkes. "Both have ideas to contribute." Wilkes also describes the fall workshop as a great time to recharge for the upcoming year and leaders return home ready with new 4-H activities. For more information, contact Wilkes in Edmonton at (403)422-4444.

Goat herd health seminar Nov. 25

Goat herd health is the subject of a seminar Nov. 25 in Westlock. The featured speaker is veterinarian Denise Schlingman. Seminar topics include preventing problems and getting the most from your feed dollar. Registration is $20 for Alberta Goat Breeder Association members, $10 for their spouses and $30 for non-members. Lunch is included. For more information, contact Lesley Jackson in Calmar at (403)985-3863.

Reserve room now for Alberta Sheep Symposium

If you plan to attend the 1995 *Alberta Sheep Symposium*, book your hotel room before Nov. 1. A limited number of rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Capri Centre in Red Deer. The symposium runs Nov. 24 through 26. Room reservations can be made by calling 1-800-662-7197 or in the Red Deer area at 346-2091. For more information about the symposium, contact Will Verboven in Calgary at (403)735-5111 or Wray Whitmore in Edmonton at (403)427-5083.

Farmfair International begins Nov. 4

Farmfair International's events begin Nov. 4 at Northlands AgriCom and Sportex. Farmfair includes a variety of livestock shows and sales including sheep, llama, draft horse, purebred swine, a number of purebred cattle, poultry and Warmblood and Quarter Horses. Charolais is the feature cattle breed for 1995. Northlands Country Marketplace includes the debut of INTAGRA, an integrated agriculture exhibit. It demonstrates how agriculture relates to the environment and how both can be harmoniously integrated. The Canadian Finals Rodeo begins on Nov. 8. Farmfair winds up on Nov. 12. For more information, contact Northlands Park at (403)471-7279.

Closing dates set for provincial poultry, rabbit and cavy show

The 81st annual *Alberta Provincial Poultry, Rabbit and Cavy Show* will be held in Calgary Dec. 1 through 3. One of the entry closing dates is Nov. 13. Poultry and cavy exhibitors need to enter by that date. The entry closing date for rabbit exhibitors is Nov. 22. The three-day event at the Agriculture Pavilion at Stampede Park features over 500 different classes. For more information and a prize list, contact Charlene Dittmer toll-free at 1-800-661-1260 or in the Calgary area at 261-0313

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AGRI-NEWS

November 6, 1995

CANADIANA

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Green Certificate goes to high school

Alberta Agriculture's farm apprenticeship program is being field tested in the Peace region as a career technology studies (CTS) option for high school students.

Darwin Eckstrom, deputy superintendent of the Peace Wapiti School Board, describes the Green Certificate program as a natural fit with CTS and its principles of practical skills training and community partnerships.

Eckstrom, a member of the Alberta Agriculture Awareness Network committee, first heard about Green Certificate while attending the 1995 Summer Agricultural Education Institute in Lethbridge. He immediately saw the potential connection to CTS, and compared its course work to Alberta Education CTS guidelines.

He sought approval from Alberta Education and endorsement from his school board, and the Peace Wapiti School Division became the site for a pilot project. Students now have until Nov. 17 to register in the program.

"This gives student in smaller schools options," Eckstrom says of the program. "There's also a potential link to college," he adds. He's discussing guaranteeing spots at Fairview College for the high school Green Certificate graduates.

Student interest in Green Certificate is already strong. "There's a potential of nine students in Sexsmith alone. The key will be getting trainers for everyone interested in the program," he says. Green Certificate's hands-on approach requires students learn on-the-job from an experienced farmer.

Robert Hornbrook, supervisor of the Green Certificate program, is excited about the project. "Opening the program to 16-year-olds and high school students, adds another dimension to agricultural training," he says. The program is being tested in other locations in the province including Chestermere, Delburne, Rimbey and Vermilion as well as in some home school situations.

Green Certificate celebrated its 20th anniversary in 1995. A joint government-industry program, the curriculum comes from the farming industry and the program is administered by Alberta Agriculture.

Its basic concept is hands-on learning supplemented by self-study materials and off-farm courses. There are seven

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Alberta
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programs – cow/calf, dairy, feedlot, swine farrow-to-finish, field crop and irrigated crop production. Three levels of training move the apprentice from basic skills to farm management. Trainees are tested and certified before moving on.

"This pilot project will open to students in any of the training areas," notes Hornbrook. "As well, the training will be the first level or basic technical training."

Becoming part of a high school field test is just one of Green Certificate's expanded horizons in 1995. "We've had Mexican university students training here in Alberta and Green Certificate pilot projects going on in B.C. and Saskatchewan," he says.

Contact: Robert Hornbrook (403)427-2171
Darwin Eckstrom (403)532-8133

Sessions shift gears to next generation

Shifting farm ownership and management to the next generation is anything but automatic. Farm families seeking help with their shift can look to a variety of succession planning seminars this winter.

Three seminar series – in Camrose, Leduc and Olds – all start on November 28 and run through February or March. [See separate stories on each of the seminar series.] All three are Canada/Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI) projects and are organized by Alberta Agriculture field specialists.

The series vary in length from six to eight seminars. Participants can attend individual sessions or the whole series. Farm families are encouraged to attend as a group. Family rates for the whole series as well as family rates for the individual sessions are available.

Janice McGregor, a rural development specialist in Morinville, says the seminar series help farm families develop communication and management skills they need for a successful farm transfer. They also have to consider the answers to three questions all farm families must ask when thinking about a multi-family business: Is the business profitable? Can we afford a multi-family business? Do we want to farm together?

"When a farm family is considering bringing in a second family or family member, they need to examine several family and business issues. Because the shift in control isn't automatic, it's important not to miss things or take issues for granted," she says.

"These seminars are a way to deal with issues at the start, rather than have them surface later and ruin a farm transfer plan," she adds.

Issues vary by family. The seminars cover that range and include business arrangements, tax implications, insurance, business communications, ownership options and risk management.

There will be opportunities for farm visits by instructors as well as one-on-one visits with some of the guest speakers.

For more information about the Camrose seminar series, contact Margo Lawrence in Camrose at (403)679-1210.

For more information about the Leduc seminar series, contact McGregor in Morinville at (403)939-4351 or George Rock in Leduc at (403)896-8985.

For more information about the Olds seminar, contact Kathy Lowther in Olds at (403)556-4220 or Ted Darling in Airdrie at (403)948-8524.

For more information about FBMI courses, contact your local Alberta Agriculture district office. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Janice McGregor (403)939-4351
Kathy Lowther (403)556-4220
Margo Lawrence (403)679-1210
Ted Darling (403)948-8524
George Rock (403)986-8985

Olds repeats farm shift seminars

Six seminars on family farm succession planning will begin in Olds on November 6.

"*Farm Shift* is based on a successful program with a similar format held last year," says Kathy Lowther, Alberta Agriculture rural development specialist.

"We feel we've developed a program that meets the needs of farm families in the area and also provides a more advanced level of information to our past participants," she adds.

Participants can attend individual sessions or attend all six. Sessions run in the evenings from 7 through 10 p.m. "Depending on their planning stage or concerns, this gives each family the flexibility to choose the sessions that make sense for them," says Lowther.

The opening session on Nov. 28 covers tax implications related to property transfers, capital gain exemptions and annual taxes. Also on the agenda is an update on the WGTA payment program.

A farm transfer issues panel is scheduled for Dec. 12. There are two January sessions. On the 9th, the subject is business arrangement decisions. Session four on Jan. 23 is a continuation of this topic with a more detailed look at joint ventures, partnerships and corporations.

Risk management is the topic on Feb. 6. The final seminar on Feb. 23 looks at possible new business ventures.

Cont'd on page 3

"We encourage families to attend as a group, so registration rates are for a family unit. As many people per farm as possible are welcome to attend," notes Lowther.

Cost for the whole seminar series is $85 (plus GST) per family unit. Or, $15 (plus GST) for individuals sessions.

For more information about *Farm Shift – Succession Planning*, contact Lowther in Olds at (403)556-4220 or Ted Darling in Airdrie at (403)948-8524. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Kathy Lowther (403)556-4220
Ted Darling (403)948-8524

Shift gears and drive through succession

Start by moving the gear shift out of park and finish by keeping on the road is the eight step plan of *Farm Shift – It's not automatic*.

The eight-part seminar series starts in Leduc on Nov. 28. "The series is designed to give farm families a sense of control over their future by developing a business ownership plan that will transfer management and ownership from one generation to the next," says Janice McGregor, rural development specialist and one of the seminar organizers.

While each session can stand alone, this series offers a complete step-by-step approach to succession planning. The start, or moving the gear shift out of park, is an overview of succession planning on Nov. 28.

Dec. 12 is a look at business communications. Jan. 16 is the process of developing an ownership plan.

On Jan. 30, the shift is to drive. "Discussions will cover how your plan fits, its legal and tax implications, risks, insurance and professional advice you might need," notes McGregor.

The February sessions look at these subjects in more detail. The Feb. 13 seminar is devoted to tax implications and concerns. The Feb. 27 focus is on insurance and investments.

The final two sessions are in March. The first, on March 12 looks at managing personal resources. "The wrap-up session on March 26 is an opportunity for participants to put their plan together and discuss it with resource staff," she says.

Registration is $75 per family unit for the whole series, or $15 per family unit for any one session.

All seminars will be held at the Denham Inn in Leduc. They run from 7 p.m. through 10 p.m.

For more information about *Farm Shift – It's not automatic*, contact McGregor in Morinville at (403)939-4351 or George Rock in Leduc at (403)986-8985. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Janice McGregor (403)939-4351
George Rock (403)986-8985

Plan to the next generation

Planning your farm's future is the focus of *Farmshift*, an eight part seminar series in Camrose.

The Camrose *Farmshift* series starts on Nov. 28 with a panel of local farm families discussing what works and what doesn't in successful farm succession.

"The series continues with one seminar in December, and two each in January, February and March," notes Margo Lawrence, rural development specialist in Camrose.

"*Farmshift* is an opportunity for farm families to gather information to make their transition smoother and easier," she adds. "Past participants have said they've had their eyes opened by what they learned and that they were happy they came."

The second session, on Dec. 12, looks at minimizing taxes to maximize farm growth.

On Jan. 9 the focus is on different farm business arrangements. A lawyer and accountant will discuss tax and legal considerations of different types of arrangements.

Retirement is in the spotlight on Jan. 23. Financial, personal and business factors will be examined.

Feb. 6's seminar looks at diversification, and how to tell if a business venture is profitable and affordable.

Managing resources – the value of money, personal and business – are the subject of the Feb. 20 seminar.

"Good communication is an important part of successfully transferring your farm. The first March session delves into how to avoid conflict and also learning good communication skills. It's aptly titled, *Are you listening or just hearing me?*," notes Lawrence.

The final session on March 19 is a workshop. Participants can get the information they need to put together their own family shift.

Farm families are encouraged to attend the seminars as a group. Registration is $75 per farm family for all the sessions, or $15 per farm family for any one session.

For more information about *Farmshift*, contact Lawrence in Camrose at (403)679-1210. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Margo Lawrence
(403)679-1210

Have your say in Peace research priorities

The Alberta Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) is inviting Peace region residents to share their vision for agriculture and food research at one of four public meetings.

The public meetings are scheduled for Nov. 16 in High Level, Nov. 20 in Fairview, Nov. 21 in Grande Prairie and Nov. 22 in Falher.

These meetings are part of a market opportunity and research priority study for the region. A steering committee representing sectors of the region's agricultural community are overseeing the study. Its chair is Ralph Christian, AARI's executive director. This study was requested by Walter Paszkowski, Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister.

"The theme of the meetings is the same question Mr. Paszkowski challenged the committee with – What research should we be doing to seize emerging opportunities?," says Christian. Those opportunities run the gamut between more research on established crops and livestock, through to diversified crops and livestock and value-added food and non-food products.

Meetings will run between 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. A $5 lunch is available. Space is limited. "Because space is at a premium, we're encouraging people to register early by calling the district agriculture office involved," he adds.

To register or for more information, contact Diane Longard in High Level at (403)927-3712, Linda Gnam in Fairview at (403)835-2291, Shirley Clapp or Cindy Cuthbert in Grande Prairie at (403)538-5285, or Yvetter Houle or Irene Lemire in Falher at (403)837-2211.

As part of the study a consulting firm is collecting and analyzing information about the region's opportunities and research needs, as well as organizing the public consultations.

Contact: Dr. Ralph Christian
(403)422-1072

Marketing plebiscite criteria finalized

Voter eligibility, times and polling stations for the barley and wheat marketing plebiscite have been finalized.

"The specific criteria were developed to correspond with the recommendation by the Plebiscite Steering Committee that eligibility be as broad as possible to include virtually any farmer who produces barley or wheat for sale," says Harold Hanna, chief returning officer.

To be eligible to vote in the Alberta plebiscite, a voter must have a principal residence in Alberta and be 18 years of age or older as well have grown barley or wheat in 1993, 1994 or 1995 and have a financial interest in these crops as a land owner; lessee; participant in a crop share agreement; shareholder in a corporation; partner in a partnership; other farming entity; have or will report farm income, if taxable, in 1993, 1994 or 1995 on a personal and/or Alberta corporate tax return; and, have not previously voted in the plebiscite.

Grain farmers can vote in person from Nov. 14 to 24, 1995, between 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the following locations: all Alberta Agriculture district offices; Agriculture Financial Services Corporation offices in Thorhild, Castor, Grimshaw and Ponoka; or, the main plebiscite returning office, #306, J.G.O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street in Edmonton. Producers unable to vote at one of these locations may request a mail-in ballot. Mail-in ballots will be available November 6. To obtain one, producers may contact the returning office at (403) 422-9167 or 1-800-232-7387 (toll free) or fax (403) 427-5921. The plebiscite office will also answer queries about eligibility.

Contact: J. Harold Hanna
(403) 422-9167 or 1-800-232-7387

Paszkowski issues warning to CWB and grain companies

The Canadian Wheat Board, the federal government, railways, grain companies and other businesses with a commercial interest in barley and wheat marketing should stay away from the Alberta plebiscite, warns Alberta's Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

Walter Paszkowski was responding to recent invitations issued by the Canadian Wheat Board Advisory Committee for department representatives and the Canadian Wheat Board to participate in town hall meetings to debate the issues related to the plebiscite.

Producers and farm organizations have been demanding a vote on barley and wheat marketing for some time says Paszkowski. "The Alberta government, following the recommendations of a steering committee established earlier this year, has set a voting process. The committee also made it clear the Alberta government should stay out of the debate as this is an issue that ultimately individual farmers must decide. The Alberta government is following this recommendation and I expect other non-farmer status governments and agencies will do the same."

The Alberta Grain Commission is conducting a plebiscite of Alberta barley and wheat growers to decide if they want the freedom to sell their barley and wheat to any buyer, including the Canadian Wheat Board, into domestic and export markets. The involvement of the Commission and the Ministry of

Cont'd on page 5

Agriculture, Food and Rural Development is to facilitate the plebiscite by providing the administrative "Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development will not be involved in arranging meetings or providing speakers for meetings. This vote is a producer vote, it is an emotional issue, and it is best left to farmers, farm organizations and commodity groups to conduct meetings and get farmers to speak on the issue. There are many farmers out there who are fully knowledgeable on this issue and who, I am sure, would be prepared to attend meetings. These types of speakers will have more impact on farmers than a government representative or a policy and research person from a grain company or the Canadian Wheat Board.

"The Alberta government plans to let farmers decide their future. However, if other governments, agencies or businesses become involved, we might have to reconsider our position. I hope it does not come to that," adds Paszkowski.

Contact: Brian Hlus / Ron Glen (403)427-2137
Ken Mobolitny (403) 427-7329

Sheep symposium targets high performance

High performance production management strategies are the focus of the 1995 *Alberta Sheep Symposium* Nov. 24 through 26 in Red Deer.

"The lead speaker is a world authority from Scotland who'll discuss efficient and rapid genetic improvement strategies in meat sheep," notes Wray Whitmore, Alberta Agriculture provincial sheep specialist, and one of the symposium organizers.

Geoff Simm is the senior animal breeding specialist at the Scottish Agricultural College. His presentation leads off the symposium on Saturday morning, Nov. 25.

Also on Saturday's agenda is the economics of range improvement, using sheep behavior to maximize your bottom line, an artificial insemination (AI) panel and sheep on the information highway.

Rick Neville of Lundbreck will talk about his experience with prescription grazing, using sheep to eat brush and shrubs. Joe Stookey, animal science professor at the University of Saskatchewan, will address welfare.

Woody Lane, a ruminant nutritionist from Oregon, will share his knowledge about sheep information on Internet. Lane will also be on a forage feeding to minimize waste panel and present a session on least cost nutrition with an emphasis on forages.

AI panelist Marg Zillig is a sheep specialist from Nova Scotia. She'll talk about Texel crossbreeding trials on Sunday.

Saturday evening's banquet features lamb and speaker Ed McNally. McNally is chief executive officer (CEO) and president of Big Rock Brewery. "He'll be speaking on *David versus Goliath* and more particularly niche marketing.

"There are parallels between his business and Alberta's sheep industry. He's a small independent pitted against large national and multi-nationals, much the same way our Canadian industry is a David versus the Goliath of Australia and New Zealand sheep industries," says Whitmore.

Sunday's morning sessions are a look at Canada's new and improved genetic improvement program with Tig Shafto, manager of the Canadian Sheep Federation's sheep information unit, while Joe Rook, a professor at Michigan State University's large animal clinic, will answer the question "Is poor management a disease?"

The afternoon starts with the forage feeding to minimize waste panel. The final sessions are Zillig on the Texel crossbreeding trials and Lane's presentation on nutrition with forages.

Symposium registration is $45 per person or a farm rate (two adults) of $75. This includes the trade show, Friday night reception, coffee breaks and two lunches. One day registration is $25. Saturday night banquet tickets are extra at $20 per adult and $12 per child.

Cheques can be made payable and sent to the Alberta Sheep Breeders Association (ASBA), _Glynn Brooks, Box 525, Canmore, Alberta, T0L 0M0.

For more information, contact Whitmore in Edmonton at (403)427-5083 or fax (403)427-1057, or Will Verboven in Calgary at (403)735-5111 or fax (403)735-5110.

Contact: Wray Whitmore (403)427-5083

Sheep symposium moves location, timing

The *Alberta Sheep Symposium* has become a totally weekend event in 1995, starting on Friday Nov. 24 and running through Sunday Nov. 26.

In the past the symposium has started on Thursday and gone to Saturday. This year the symposium will begin on Friday with registration starting at 5 p.m. and a reception at 7 p.m. "This opening event is an opportunity to meet Alberta Sheep and Wool Commission directors, symposium speakers and other people in the industry," notes Wray Whitmore, Alberta Agriculture provincial sheep specialist, and one of the symposium organizers.

The symposium has also moved locations, from the mountains to the plains. "We've moved to Red Deer to make the symposium more accessible to more producers," says Whitmore. The symposium will be held at the Capri Centre.

Cont'd on page 6

Conference registration has also changed to include a farm event rate. Individual event registration is $45 per person. The farm rate is $75 for two adults. An individual day rate of $25 is also available. Banquet tickets are separate at $20 per adult and $12 per child.

Cheques for registration and tickets can be made payable to the Alberta Sheep Breeders Association (ASBA) and sent to ASBA, _Glynn Brooks, Box 525, Canmore, Alberta, T0L 0M0.

The theme of the 1995 symposium is high performance sheep production management strategies. |See separate story for more details.|

For more information, contact Whitmore in Edmonton at (403)427-5083 or fax (403)427-1057, or Will Verboven in Calgary at (403)735-5111 or fax (403)735-5110.

Contact: Wray Whitmore
(403)427-5083

Irrigated crop production innovations seminar in Taber

The second *Innovations in Irrigated Crop Production* conference will be held in Taber on November 28.

"In November 1994, the first conference was held in front of a crowd of over 300 farmers. Because of this success and the need for more information transfer we are going to do it again," says Rob Dunn, regional conservation co-ordinator and one of the organizers.

Five topics will be covered. Bob Church starts the day speaking on where to in the future with technology. A member of the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame, Church is former associate dean of medical research at the University of Calgary, runs a cow-calf operation west of Airdrie and sits on a number of boards and research councils.

An industry panel will talk about managing production records. This segment will key on new computer programs, how to run them and what they can do for you.

Tom Goddard, Alberta Agriculture conservation specialist, starts off the afternoon discussing the role of site specific crop management. "Tom has been working with precision farming using global positioning systems (GPS) for the past three years and has some interesting results," notes Dunn.

Martin Entz will talk about using crop rotation to your benefit. From the University of Manitoba, Entz specializes in crop rotation and forage management practices.

Terry Church will finish the day with a discussion about new markets and new cropping choices. Current director of Alberta Agriculture's processing industry division, Church has a very diverse background and will bring some interesting ideas on new crops and markets.

Registration and viewing displays starts at 8 a.m. with opening remarks at 8:50 a.m. sharp. A $10 registration fee includes lunch and a copy of the proceedings.

This conference is sponsored by the Alberta Pulse Commission, Alberta Sugar Beet Growers' Marketing Board, the Southern Alberta Conservation Association and Alberta Agriculture.

For more information contact Dunn in Lethbridge at (403)381-5119, Jack Payne or Roger Hohm in Taber at (403)223-7907 or (403)223-7908. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Rob Dunn Jack Payne or Roger Hohm
(403)381-5119 (403)223-7907 or (403)223-7908

Agri-News briefs

Bison information seminar Nov. 16-17

Getting started in the bison business is one of the topics at a two-day bison information seminar Nov. 16 and 17 in Fairview. Other topics include bison feeding and management and bison meat's market potential. Pre-registration is required by Nov. 9. Registration is $150 per farm unit. Co-sponsored by Alberta Agriculture and the Peace Country Bison Association, the workshop precedes the association's annual meeting. For more information, contact the Fairview district office at 1-800-449-2106 or the Grande Prairie district office at (403)538-5285.

One-day marketing workshop in Brooks

Marketing Your Bottom Line is a one-day workshop Nov. 16 in Brooks. It's billed as a workshop to begin building your business dreams into a marketing strategy. Participants will work will experienced facilitators to develop market research, new market potential and a marketing plan. They'll also learn about marketing resources such as finances, manufacturers and suppliers. The registration fee is $50 per business (maximum two people). The pre-registration deadline is Nov. 7. To register, call 1-800-651-2946.

Rural Family Business Management Conference in Brooks

Profiting from the past and prospering in the future is the theme of a one-day business management conference for rural families. The conference is Saturday Nov. 18 at the Medicine Hat College Brooks campus. Among the breakout session topics are using Internet, crop diversification, family breaks, marketing, taxes, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and contract law. There are three childrens' program, one for under age two, another for ages two through 9 and a 10+ program. Displays include on-farm home-based businesses. For more information, contact Anne Marie Shields in Brooks at (403)362-1677 or fax (403)362-8926.

1995 Lakedell Beef Industry Update

A one-day beef industry update runs Nov. 9 at the Lakedell Centre in Westerose. Topics include marketing, production, diseases and association activities. Speakers include Anne Dunford and Ben Thorlakson. Dunford of Canfax will provide a cattle market outlook and look at consumer trends. Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) chairman Thorlakson will discuss feedlot issues, concerns and trends along with ACC and Canadian Cattlemen' Association updates. Registration is $15 per person and includes lunch. For more information or to register, call the Alberta Agriculture Wetaskiwin district office at (403)361-1240. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Kidding and kid management in Hanna Dec. 9

A one-day short course on kidding and kid management is scheduled for Hanna on Dec. 9. The workshop is devoted to keys to successful goatkeeping. Featured speaker is veterinarian Tracey Logan. Other speakers are Glenda Haight on kidding and Carolyn Brocca on goat products. Registration is $20 for Alberta Goat Breeder Association (AGBA) members, $10 for spouses and $30 for non-members. Lunch is included. For more information, contact Jeannette Gross in Hanna at (403)854-2208.

Soil science paper call

The *Alberta Soil Science Workshop 1996* has put out a call for papers. Abstracts are due by Nov. 20. The plenary session theme for the February 1996 workshop is heavy metals. Technical sessions in soil fertility, conservation, reclamation and inventory are planned. The workshop is scheduled for Feb. 20 through 22. Volunteer papers are scheduled for the afternoon of Feb. 21 and space is limited. For more information, contact Michelle Nutting in Edmonton at (403)493-8700.

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Coming agricultural events notice

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in **fall or winter of 1995, or in 1996**? Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the **name, city or town, and phone number** of a **contact person** for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization). **Please include your telephone number**:

Please return this form by* November 23, 1995 *to:

Agri-News Editor
Communications Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
FAX (403)427-2861

(*Coming agricultural events* is published four times a year in **Agri-News**. The next list will be **December 4, 1995**)

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AGRI-NEWS

November 13, 1995

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Bullish farmers holding tight

Strong wheat and coarse grain markets are having an effect on oilseed markets as both Canadian and U.S. farmers are holding on to their product until they get the price they want says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"This general bullishness on the part of farmers was a strong factor during October in the oilseed market. Stronger even, than market support from smaller soybean and canola crop production estimates," says Al Dooley of the market analysis and statistics branch.

As expected, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) lowered its estimate of U.S. soybean production by a little more than 2.5 million tonnes from its September report. The Canadian canola crop was estimated by Statistics Canada at 6.6 million tonnes, still the second largest crop ever, but down from an earlier estimate of 6.8 million tonnes. Flax production was pegged at 1.1 million tonnes, very close to Statistics Canada's initial estimates released in late August.

"The smaller canola crop this season is somewhat positive for prices, as is the tighter supply/demand situation for U.S. soybeans. However, don't expect canola prices to reach the highs of a year ago," he adds. Dooley forecasts a range between $8 and $8.50/bu. over the next three or four months.

Nothing significant changed in the global supply/demand situation during October. Nor, is there a shortage of oilseeds this season. The most recent world production estimates are for marginally less than the 1994-95 record. However, overall consumption is expected to exceed production by a small amount, resulting in some stock tightening.

By type of product, the situation is a little different. For the major oils and fats, for example, stocks could rise by about 300,000 tonnes from a year ago to 11.5 million tonnes.

Contact: *Al Dooley*
(403)427-5387

Wheat goes up again

Wheat futures moved higher again in October and the outlook is for price strength to remain for this crop year says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Positive export news and further reductions in world crop size estimates supported the markets and nothing has changed on the supply side to alter the strong fundamental outlook for wheat prices this crop year," says Al Dooley of the market analysis and statistics branch.

Using current estimated incoming wheat stocks and five-year average usage values, even a large wheat crop of 570 million tonnes next year would leave carryovers at the end of 1996-97 at only 113 million tonnes, as compared to five-year average levels of 125 million.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News™ is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

"Even one year ahead, there is not a lot of room for problems with production in world wheat markets," notes Dooley.

The most recent global production estimate for 1995-96 is 530 million tonnes, just 10 million tonnes higher than last year's relatively poor world crop. "The bottom line is that world wheat supplies remain tight and will stay that way, at least throughout this crop year," he adds.

While there appears to be very little in the way of downside in wheat markets this season, it could come. "We may be approaching a point where buyers begin to back away from the market. However, even when this price rationing point is reached, the market will remain very sensitive to any news that suggests that production or stock levels could fall," says Dooley.

Contact: Al Dooley
(403)427-5387

Feedgrain markets strengthen

Feedgrain futures made strong gains through October, and the price trend could move even higher says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"As with wheat, smaller crop production estimates, good export sales for corn and a generally positive attitude on the farm are all providing support," says Al Dooley of the market analysis and statistics branch.

The CWB increased initial payments on barley this past month. Feed barley initials were raised $12 per tonne, while designated barley initials were increased by $30 per tonne. Pool Return Outlook forecasts were also raised in late October, again a reflection of the smaller U.S. corn crop and good world demand for malting barley.

USDA's October Crop Report cut a further three million tonnes off the global coarse grain production estimate. The most recent figure of 797 million tonnes is almost 70 million tonnes lower than last year's world crop. "A huge chunk of this drop is attributable to the sharp decline in U.S. corn production," notes Dooley. The current USDA estimate is 192 million tonnes, down from last year's crop of 257 million tonnes.

Statistics Canada's September crop production estimate put Canadian barley production at 12.9 million tonnes, up from the 11.7 million tonne crop grown a year earlier. Oats production was estimated at just 2.8 million tonnes, versus the 3.6 million tonne crop grown last year. Both of these crops are at, or above, the five-year average level of output. "This is encouraging because it shows Canadian farmers have product to sell and can take advantage of the excellent prices available this year," he says.

Prices could go even higher. "Some people in the trade suspect that USDA will lower its estimate of U.S. corn production again in its November crop report," says Dooley. "Given how tight the coarse grain market is, it won't take much of a drop to get prices moving up higher still."

Contact: Al Dooley
(403)427-5387

Sellers in control of special crop export market

Sellers are firmly in control of the special crop export market and likely will retain their grip until well into 1996 says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"It is very difficult to find factors that could turn this market around, outside of currency risk," says Matthew Machielse of the market analysis and statistics branch.

"The combination of tight wheat and coarse grain outlooks is going to keep a firm floor under most pulse markets, particularly the feed pea market," he adds.

World coarse grain consumption is forecast to decline 26 million tonnes according to the International Grains Council. The fall is largely due to expected supply rationing because of increasing prices.

The European Union (EU) traditionally imports 25 million tonnes of protein rich non-grain feed components. The largest share of these non-grain imports, or about 12 million tonnes, is in the form of soybean meal. Another significant ingredient is corn gluten feed. The by-product of ethanol fuel production is currently clouded by controversy in the U.S., the main EU supplier. During October, soybean meal and corn gluten pellets climbed $12 to $15 per tonne (U.S.) in Europe.

"Canadian feed peas may become a more attractive alternative because of the U.S. situation," notes Machielse.

Canadian traders have also offered increased feed pea bids (basis port position) as a result of the rising EU market. "The top of October's market was $5.25 per bushel, a full dollar ahead of the long-term average," he notes.

The last 30 days further closed the gap between edible and feed pea bids. "Producers have been moving yellows grading two or lower into the hot feed market. This should have limited impact on the large feed market but could have significant impact on yellow edible prices down the road," he says.

Available quantities are a primary factor in determining price strength in the edible pea market. Reducing the available supply should cause prices to rally higher. Machielse says producers should be patient with their number two yellows as demand should move these bids higher in the next two to four weeks.

Market signals in the canaryseed market indicate that the longer the grower holds, the higher the market price will climb. Moisture problems in Argentina will cut expected

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production from that competitor and support interest in Canadian product.

"Given the canaryseed market has limited buyers, this scenario only holds until demand is satisfied, and our house of cards could come tumbling down. Timing is the key factor and producers should set price targets," he notes.

Increasing new crop bids, tight stocks and reduced production are all common phrases in the U.S. forage seed market. "The 1996 outlook continues to improve as expected U.S. and European demand is promising to get the forage seed market headed higher," says Machielse.

Competitively priced alternatives such as wheat, corn and soybeans in both the U.S. and Canada are expected to take a portion of traditional forage acres out of production. "So, the longer-term (1996-97) appears brighter. But, some products will see improvements faster than others," he says.

The clovers and alfalfa seed markets have already shown signs of improvement, up $20/cwt. in some cases since late summer. Canadian alfalfa production is expected to be strong in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, but Alberta is reporting variable outturns.

Fescue demand in the U.S. should be strong next spring as a lack of alternative species is becoming more of a concern. Last year, Canada exported around 30 million pounds. It appears the U.S. market will need an additional 10, or even 20, million pounds if demand remains at current levels.

"If this demand is realized, prices should move into the high 40 or low 50 cent per pound range. This is a far cry from last year's dismal mid-30 cent per pound bids," he notes.

On the other hand, timothy will likely take longer to recover from the latest spike in production as supply continues to overwhelm demand.

Contact: *Matthew Machielse*
(403)427-5387

Feeder market slow, slaughter has surprises

The fall calf run got off to a slow start and the slaughter market had some surprises in October says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Warm fall weather and low prices resulted in a very slow start to the fall run of calves in Western Canada," notes Ron Gietz of the market analysis and statistics branch.

Up to late October, volumes were running well below year-ago levels in most markets, despite larger farm inventories of beef cattle. In most cases, prices were steady to slightly lower compared to September levels. Gietz predicts volumes will pick up, particularly if a winter storm arrives to prompt many of the fence-sitters into marketing action.

"If a conscious decision is made by many cow-calf operators to delay marketings into the new year, the larger-than-normal volumes of heavy feeders will pressure those markets at that time," he adds.

The feeder cattle trade to date has featured four trends: large price spreads within weight ranges reflecting quality differences and buyer selectiveness, relatively stronger demand for heavy feeders, bred cattle average prices down sharply from last year and an added element of uncertainty with frequent shifts in the Canadian dollar's value.

Barring a major shift in exchange rates, Gietz says producers can expect sideways to higher-trending feeder cattle prices in the next several months. Feed costs should remain high, while the expected upward trend in fed cattle prices will be a positive influence.

"Overall, the market is prepared to take a breather after trending downwards since last February. Most importantly, current feeder cattle prices bring back the potential for a return to positive margins in the feedlot sector, which should provide price support at the current level," he says.

In slaughter cattle markets, late September and October brought a few surprises. U.S. prices made very gradual progress to higher levels, strengthening to between $65 and $66/cwt. by late October. Large marketings, and consequently large supplies of beef in the marketing chain, kept quite a bit of bargaining power on the side of packer buyers, limiting the extent of fall price gains.

"Canadian prices also made progress higher during the month, but the path to higher price levels was even more erratic than in the U.S., thanks to frequent fluctuations in the Canada/U.S. dollar exchange rate," he notes.

By late October, slaughter steer and heifer prices in Alberta were averaging above the $80/cwt. mark. Slaughter cow prices headed rapidly lower during the month, although a weaker dollar provided some relief late in October. Cull cow prices are revisiting territory not seen for a decade, as the first stage of herd liquidation begins in North America.

"This winter's prices depend very much on the Canadian dollar's value. Fallout from the Quebec referendum will continue to influence what direction the dollar moves. Since fed cattle prices will likely gradually improve over the winter, how much will depend on the dollar," he says.

Contact: *Ron Gietz*
(403)427-5376

Cont'd on page 4

4-H Scholarships awarded to 83 students

Eighty-three past and present 4-H members have been awarded scholarships for the 1995-96 academic year.

"Over $45,000 was awarded in scholarship monies to post-secondary students across the province this year," says Carla McAlister, scholarship co-ordinator.

More than 320 applications were received for the 44 available scholarships. Each application was considered based on 4-H and community involvement, leadership skills, school activities, academic standing and other criteria set by scholarship donors.

In 1995 two new scholarships were added to the provincial program. The Alberta Cattle Commission Scholarship and the Dairyworld Foods Scholarship both provide two scholarships worth $500.

Scholarships are funded by individuals, corporations, associations and memorial funds. The wide variety of scholarships are available to both former and current Alberta 4-H members.

For more information about the Alberta 4-H scholarship program or starting a 4-H scholarship, contact Alberta Agriculture home economics and 4-H branch at Room 200, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, or call (403)422-4444. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000.

Contact:	*Carla McAlister* *(403)422-4444*	*Carol Sullivan* *(403)422-4444*

1995-96 4-H Scholarship Recipients

A & E Cappelle LN Herefords Scholarship

approx. $150	Renn Breitkreuz	Onoway

AgrEvo Canada Inc. Bursary

$500	Ryan Ronald	Ponoka

Alberta Cattle Commission Scholarship

$500	Kim Denis	Lacombe
	Shari Bagozzi	Vulcan

Alberta Dairy Association

$500	Colin Strauss	Edmonton
	Jayson Van Sluys	Fort Macleod
	Steven Marshman	Rockyford

Alberta Ford and Mercury Dealer Scholarship

$1000	Laurie Schlaht	Lomond
	Nancy Muchka	Acme
	David Sheets	Ohaton
	Lisa Wesner	Drumheller
	Aaron Fehlauer	Devon
	Lori-Ann Konieczny	Innisfree
	Lona Vanberg	Grande Prairie

Alberta Treasury Branches

$1000	Dalyce Russil	Elkwater
	Beth Downey	Strathmore
	Karen Tulloch	Lacombe
	Mark Bingeman	Oyen
	Curtis Smith	Fawcett
	Amy Wisniewski	Hairy Hill
	Mark Schweitzer	Beaverlodge

Alberta Wheat Pool – 1st year

$500	Philip Harty	Etzikom
	Connie Jacula	Vermilion

Alberta Wheat Pool – 2nd year

$500	Dee Aarsby	Crossfield
	Chris Kennet	Barrhead

Blue Klein Memorial Scholarship

$300	Chad Ramsay	Bluffton

Calgary 4-H Alumni Scholarship

$300	Jeannette Mandrusiak	Two Hills

Ceres International Women's Fraternity

$100	Linda Kwirant	Wildwood

The Co-operators Scholarship

$1000	Andrea Wojcik	High River

Dairyworld Foods Scholarship

$500	Tim Borthwick	Claresholm
	Joanna Ramsum	Atmore

Dana Misick Memorial Scholarship

$500	Becky Tillotson	Innisfree

Dixon Shield Memorial Scholarship

$325	Wade Meunier	Barrhead

Don Matthews Scholarship

$500	Wendy Williams	Gibbons

Edith Taylor Memorial Scholarship

$400	Nyla Kristensen	Dixonville

Farm Credit Corporation Regional Scholarship

$300	Lia Lundgren	Vulcan
	Tracy Johnston	Calgary
	Jamie Kozak	Rimbey
	Greg Kozak	Hardisty
	Chelsea Tomlinson	Redwater
	Shane Menzak	Ranfurly
	Nadawn Toews	Fort Vermilion

Farm Credit Corporation 4-H Scholarship Awards Program

$1000	Sheldon Nadeau	Fort Macleod
	Julie Hadwin	Consort

FarmHouse International Fraternity

$100	Trent Wennekamp	Lloydminster

4-H Foundation of Alberta

$350	Karen Bussey	Airdrie

George Pimm Memorial

$400	Charlene Brightwell	Grimshaw

Glen Bodell Memorial Scholarship

$125	Barbara Szybunka	Sangudo

Harvest Trust Scholarship

$340	Heather Mitchell	Pincher Creek

Inga Marr Memorial Scholarship

$300	Jodi-Lynn Glover	Wainwright

Ken Edgerton Memorial Scholarship

$400	Sheila Ikram	Fairview

Lilydale Poultry Scholarship

$800	Jody Wacowich	Redwater

Marilyn Sue Lloyd Memorial

$200	Curtis Perry	Coronation

Minburn Wild Rose Scholarship

$200	Nathan Carter	Innisfree

Norma Jean Gray

$1000	Kerri Solick	Lacombe
	Karla Adam	Trochu
	Tammy Sandberg	Fort Macleod
	Cherie McGowan	Killam
	Tracy Gardner	Olds

Pennington Memorial Scholarship

approx. $500	Crystal Greilach	Barrhead
	Naidene Petersen	Cherhill

Ralph Cossey Memorial Scholarship

$275	Janice Feenstra	Vermilion

Robert Sherwood Memorial Scholarship

$550	Darren Hueppelsheuser	Blackfalds

Thomas Caryk Memorial Scholarship

approx. $375	Jennifer MacAlister	Wembley

TX Bar (1)

$1000	Tanya Burgess	Cardston

TX Bar (2)

$500	Jade Mackenzie	Mountain View

TX Bar (3)

$400	Jodi Cunningham	Milk River

United Farmers of Alberta

$1000	Becky Mitchell	Kitscot
	Janis Isaman	Consort

United Grain Growers Limited

$500	Penny Steffen	Grimshaw

Vermilion River 4-H District Scholarship

$200	Marcey Willes	Vermilion

Walter Lipkewich Memorial Scholarship

$300	Jodi Dahlgren	Wainwright

Wetaskiwin District 4-H Scholarship

approx. $500	Jennifer Walker	Wetaskiwin
	Nicol Stone	Wetaskiwin
	Perry Rasmuson	Gwynne

Wheat Board Surplus Monies Trust

$300	Tamara Logan	Lomond
	Nancy Hixt	Beiseker
	Candice Hueppelsheuser	Blackfalds
	Marie Rawe	Strome
	Jamie Belanger	Morinville
	Kari Harbin	Rivercourse
	Joni-Lee Herr	Valleyview

Woodgrove Unifarm Local Trust

$300	Bernadette McDonald	Stony Plain

Cool weather for October harvesting

October 1995's weather was cool says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

"The average temperature was 1.4 degrees below normal and total precipitation 12 per cent above normal," notes Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch.

The province's 59 climate stations averaged 22.9 mm of precipitation, 2.5 mm above the 1961 to 1990 average. These averages are based on data recorded at 59 Environment Canada climate stations across Alberta.

The wettest part of Alberta was the southern region where amounts of 14 to 55 mm, or 120 to 300 per cent of normal, were reported. "Rain delayed late harvest in some areas," he says.

Peace region precipitation was also above normal with reports of between 20 and 35 mm, or about 60 per cent to 140 per cent of normal.

The driest areas of Alberta during October were the central region and parts of the northeast region. These areas reported between two and 25 mm, 15 to 90 per cent of normal.

In agricultural areas, Medicine Hat received the most precipitation during October. Its 44.7 mm was 287 per cent of the long-term average. On the other side of the scale, Vegreville received only 3.6 mm of precipitation during the entire month. Vegreville's long-term average is 14.8 mm.

The province's average monthly temperature for October was 3.7°. This is about 1.4 degrees below the long term average of 5.1 degrees. "Most Alberta locations reported temperatures 0.5 to 3 degrees below normal," notes Dzikowski.

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Bow Island reported 6.3°C, the warmest monthly mean temperature. That was about 1.3 degree below the normal temperature of 7.2 degrees.

The coldest monthly average temperature was the 0.9°C recorded in High Level. "This was just slightly cooler, 0.2 degrees, than the monthly normal temperature of 1.1 degrees," he adds.

For more information, contact Peter Dzikowski in Edmonton at (403)422-4385. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Peter Dzikowski*
(403)422-4385

Agri-News briefs

Stage set for hog price drop

The latest USDA Hog Inventory Report sets the stage for a downwards swing in slaughter hog prices, despite showing that current and short-term inventories are below year-ago levels says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "Production could continue to trend below year-ago levels until the second quarter of 1996, at which time pork output may pull even with and eventually surpass 1995 levels," says Ron Gietz of the market analysis and statistics branch. This production scenario is based on USDA estimates of farrowings and farrowing intentions for the second half of 1995 and early 1996. However, given the hot weather this past summer, actual farrowings could come in below USDA estimates, resulting in lower pork production. By late October, U.S. slaughter hog prices started a belated seasonal price slide, dipping to the mid to low $40 level. "Further price weakness into December is likely, as packers get used to the more comfortable supply levels and find less need to compete for available hogs," he says. Following a late fall low, possibly just below the $40 mark, U.S. prices are expected to trend gradually higher into the new year. For more information, contact Gietz in Edmonton at (403)427-5376.

PFA annual tour Dec. 13

The Pembina Forage Association (PFA) will hold its annual tour on Dec. 13. The day-long tour will be in the Smoky Lake/Thorhild area. Feeding alternatives such as swath grazing is the tour focus. For more information, contact the PFA office in Westlock at (403)349-4546.

Just Facts updated and re-released

An updated comprehensive cattle industry information booklet has been released by the Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC). Since the first edition of **Just Facts** was developed in 1989, more than 15,000 copies have been distributed to media, students and others. The booklet covers environmental facts, animal welfare practices, nutritional information and a general overview of Alberta's beef industry. "Alberta's beef producers have been long-time partners with the environment and we believe our ongoing efforts with environmental management are progressive. Some facts about our industry are often misrepresented," says Charles Westra, ACC public affairs committee chair. "**Just Facts** will help journalists and the public gain accurate information about our industry." Copies of **Just Facts** are available from the Alberta Cattle Commission by faxing (403)274-0007 or calling (403)275-4400.

Winter wheat growers annual meeting Dec. 12

The Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission will hold its 5th annual meeting Dec. 12 at Sven Ericksen's in Lethbridge. The day-long meeting includes market analysis, fertilizer research, two newly registered varieties and changes to crop insurance. Luncheon speaker is Ken Symns, general manager of the American White Wheat Producers Association. He'll discuss producer owned value-added initiatives. Pre-registration, before Dec. 1, is $25. Registration at the door is $30. For more information, call the commission's office in Lethbridge at (403)328-0059.

Applied research/forage association conference Dec. 4 & 5

A two-day conference Dec. 4 and 5 in Edmonton puts the spotlight on applied research and forage. The Applied Research/Forage Association conference is hosted in part by the Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association (SARDA) and the North Peace Applied Research Association (NPARA). Pre-registration is required by Nov. 17. For more information, contact Jeanne Bisson in Falher at (403)837-2211 or Merv Empey in Manning at (403)836-3354.

Barley Commission annual meeting Nov. 30

The Alberta Barley Commission will hold its annual meeting Nov. 30 at the Capri Centre in Red Deer. The business of farming beyond production is the meeting theme. However, some speakers will look at barley production. Afternoon sessions will examine some potential markets. The 1995 Alberta Barley Commission fourth annual leadership award and the barley yield competition awards will be presented during the meeting. For more information, contact the commission in Calgary at (403)291-9111 or toll-free at 1-800-265-9111.

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CANADIANA

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AGRI-NEWS

November 20, 1995

FBMI alumni program for farm managers

If you are one of the over 9,000 farm managers who took a Canada-Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI) course in the last three years, you now have one more reason to appreciate the investment you made in yourself and your operation.

This fall, a new facet of the FBMI progam is being implemented for farm managers who have taken previous FBMI courses. "Being an alumni now has a reward system," says Elma Herde, the northeast region FBMI rep.

"Being an alumni member entitles you to take advantage of thousands of dollars of savings in high quality products – merchandise and services – designed to assist you in managing your farm," she adds. These include computer packages to on-line services, and course discounts and bursaries.

To find out about these alumni benefits, watch your mailbox. "If you've taken an FBMI course, you'll receive an *alumni coupon booklet* with all the information," she notes. Basically, alumni show their FBMI membership card and present the coupon to the participating business.

Becoming an alumni is as easy as taking a course. "There's a wide range of choices in the 1995-96 line-up," notes Herde. The 1995-96 FBMI calendar has been mailed. It has a comprehensive list of FBMI courses being offered across the province.

"If you are interested in a course, phone the programming partner and get signed up today. If getting top quality farm management information has become a priority on your operation, look at what FBMI can offer you," she adds.

FBMI alumni program for farm managers (cont'd)

For more information about the alumni program or the FBMI calendar, contact any one of the FBMI reps. They are: Craig Smith, southern region, in Glenwood at (403)626-3448 or fax (403)362-3461; Delin Sheehan-Millang, central region, in Stettler at (403)742-7500 or fax (403)742-7527;
Nan Barlett, Peace region, in Fairview at (403)835-4288 or fax (403)835-5332; Arla Trueblood, northwest region, in Dapp at phone or fax (403)945-3745; and, Herde, northeast region, in Ardmore at (403)826-1959 (phone and fax).

Contact: *Elma Herde*
(403)826-1959

MAP to mastering your markets

Mastering the market isn't just the theme of the 1996 Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP'96) conference, it's a reality for Alberta farmers.

"Farmers can't just grow and sell, they have to grow what they can sell. The same principle applies to people diversifying their

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News™ is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

operations and getting into value-added businesses," says Doug Barlund, 1996 MAP conference chair.

"So, it's more than appropriate for a farm management conference devoted to *$mart farming* to turn its attention to the marketplace," he adds. MAP'96 runs Jan. 30 through Feb. 1 in Red Deer.

Conference sessions related to marketing include gathering market intelligence, market information and access, a long-term market outlook, a grain price outlook, a livestock price outlook, the changing world of trade, making the most of what you've got, a speciality crops outlook and a short-term economic outlook.

"MAP'96 also continues its commitment to provide leading edge information in other areas of farm business management," adds Barlund. Select-a-sessions also cover business management, economic and human resource topics with speakers from Canada and the U.S.

Plenary speakers will help set the conference tone. Leading off is ag futurist Lowell Catlett. He'll discuss emerging trends that will likely affect society, careers, agriculture and lives at the beginning of the 21st century.

Larry Martin, chair of the Agrifood Competitiveness Council and Agrifood Network, starts the conference's second day. He'll discuss opportunities and impediments in Canada's agrifood industry.

Wind-up speaker is Patricia Pitsel who will remind conference participants about the wisdom they've never lost. Pitsel, a chartered psychologist, is noted for her humor and work in human resource fields.

Conference information is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) offices across the province. Brochures will be available at those offices by Nov. 30.

Registration and conference details are also available through the MAP hotline by calling 1-800-387-6030, or Internet e-mail from poole@agric.gov.ab.ca.

Contact: Doug Barlund
(403)556-4245

'96-'97 multi-media catalogue released

A new, more user-friendly catalogue can help you order from the most comprehensive range of audio-visual materials in Western Canada.

Alberta Agriculture's **Multi-Media Catalogue 1996 1997** has just been published. "This is a guide both to our 800 title collection as well as to how our library service fee system works," says Ken Blackley, multi-media branch information officer.

Red and green dots immediately identify whether the titles have a user-fee (red dot), or are loaned free (green dot). As well, a copyright symbol shows which videos are restricted to department-use only.

"Every new video in this catalogue is also specially notes. There are over 50 brand-new titles including some of our recently produced videos such as *The World Trading Game*, *Managing our Rangelands* and the*Water Wells That Last* triology," he notes.

Only video tapes have a complete description in this edition of the catalogue. However, there is a listing of 16mm film and audio cassette titles that are still available.

The catalogue's introduction also has instructions about how to order and return materials. Orders can be placed through the central library as well as any Alberta Agriculture district office.

Annual library membership fees (not including GST) are $12 for individual Albertans, and $25 for organizations or companies and out-of-province borrowers. Single title rates are available.

For more information about the library or copies of the 1996-97 catalogue contact the multi-media liibrary at Communications Division, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Contact: Ken Blackley
(403)427-2127

New ethic for animals in equine industry

An explanation of the animal welfare ethic and how it fits in the equine industry is the theme of the 1996 Fred Pearce Memorial Speaker Series.

Bernard Rollin, who taught the world's first veterinary medical ethics course, will address this topic at the 1996 *Alberta Horse Owners and Breeders Conference* in Red Deer Jan. 12 through 14. Rollin's appearance is sponsored by the Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

A professor of philosophy as well as physiology and biophysics at Colorado State University, Rollin is also the university's director of bioethical planning. His expertise on animal ethics, genetic engineering, animal pain, animal research and other topics in bioethics and philosophy have made him widely sought as a speaker.

"Dr. Rollin's addition to our program adds another dimension to a very complete range of topics," says Les Burwash manager of Alberta Agriculture's equine programs and one of the conference organizers.

Cont'd on page 3

Rollin's plenary session is scheduled for the final morning, Sunday Jan. 15, of the conference.

Although the annual conference has four streams – Arabian, Quarter Horse, Thoroughbreds and all breeds – participants aren't limited to the sessions they can attend. Topics cover general areas of production, equine business and riding.

Conference registration still hasn't change. Registration is $75 per person with every additional person from the same farm at $50. For more information about the 1996 conference, contact Burwash in Airdrie at (403)948-8532. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Les Burwash
(403)948-8532

Opportunities and profits proceedings available

For $15, you can catch up on the details of the *Opportunities and Profits* special crops conference held this summer in Calgary.

"Conference proceedings provide an overview of the full range of speakers and their topics," notes conference chair Nabi Chaudhary of Alberta Agriculture's production economics branch.

"This was the first major special crops conference in eight years, a time when the industry expanded. Conference speakers updated participants on the enhanced production and marketing opportunities available," he adds.

A roster of international speakers provided information on pulse, lentil, fibre, hemp, herb, spice, essential oil and other minor use oil crops. They covered processing, value-adding, marketing opportunities, new products and new crops, processing potentials, niche markets, infrastructure and market constraints.

The proceedings are more than 150 pages long and are available for $15. Cheques can be made payable to the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) and mailed to AARI, 303, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Contact: Nabi Chaudhary
(403)427-4005

Agri-News briefs

Celebrities help Stock Growers' centennial celebrations

The Western Stock Growers' Association (WSGA) will have some help from Alberta celebrities as the association kicks off its 100th annual convention. Country entertainer George Fox and Premier Ralph Klein are among the celebrities who will be on hand for the Nov. 28 through Dec. 1 convention. Fox will make a special appearance at the centennial auction and dinner. Convention speakers will address production issues, consumer trends and marketing. Convention highlights include a commercial and historical trade show, a cowboy art show and grande finale where 1890s period costume is required. For more information about the convention, contact centennial co-ordinator Rhonda Clark at the WSGA office in Calgary at (403)250-9121.

1995 Seed Growers Workshop Dec. 11-12

An annual workshop for seed growers will be held Dec. 11 and 12 at Olds College. The *1995 Seed Growers Workshop* will update participants on regulations, issues and other seed grower concerns. Topics include the seed industry of the future, varieties and initiatives, a Commercial Seed Analysts Association update, an Agriculture Canada update, marketing opportunities and revamping the Canadian seed system. There is no charge for the workshop. It is open to all seed growers and anyone interested in becoming a seed grower. For more information, contact Bill Witbeck in Lacombe at 782-4641.

Olds couple will represent Alberta at Young Farmers'

Alex and Donna Hamilton of Olds will represent Alberta and the NWT at the national *Outstanding Young Farmers' competition* starting later this week in Regina. The Hamiltons will compete against six other couples from across Canada during the Canadian Western Agribition. Starting on November 25, they'll begin the final stage of the competition with a forum discussion hosted by Saskatchewan's agriculture minister at the Saskatchewan Legislature. The *Outstanding Young Farmers Program* honor leaders in the industry. Judging criteria include financial management, farm operations, environmental efforts and community/industry involvement. The Hamiltons, first generation farmers, run a highly diversified mixed farming operation. Their major crop is hulless barley that becomes Hamilton's Barley Flour. As well, they grow field peas, tame hay for export and specialty cut flowers. Their hay and grain production also supports a 90-head cow-calf operation. For more information, contact the Hamilton's in Olds at (403)556-8493, or Tim Duffin, national program chair, in Calgary at (403)254-9900.

Mohair producers annual meeting Dec. 2

The Alberta Mohair Producers Association will hold its annual meeting December 2 in Lacombe. The meeting will take place at the Alberta Agriculture Building at 5030-50 Street and start at 10 a.m. Nominations are open for director positions. This is a change in timing for the association, as the annual general meeting moves from April. For more information, contact Lisa Harbridge at (403)845-3515.

History of seed industry available

Limited numbers of a book tracing Canada's seed industry are available. **The Merchants of Seed** is $21.50 (includes GST and shipping). Orders can be mailed to the Canadian Seed Trade Association at 39 Robertson Road, Suite 302, Nepean, Ontario, K2H 8R2, or ordered with Mastercard by calling (613)829-9527 or faxing (613)829-3530.

Address correction for meat manual orders

Alberta orders for **Meat Processing Facilities in Alberta: Regulations-Technology-Design** are available from the Alberta Meat Processors Association. The association's correct address and postal code are #13, **21215** Wye Road, Sherwood Park, Alberta, **T8G** 1C8. The association's telephone number is (403)922-6006. Each manual is $50 plus $3.50 GST. The manual describes standard practice for Alberta meat processors and outlines regulations and technology needed for sale, efficient abattoirs and meat processing facilities. For more information, contact John Kienholz at Alberta Agriculture's engineering services branch at (403)427-2181.

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AGRI-NEWS

November 27, 1995

First Alberta's, now nation's speaking champ

Alberta 4-Her Nathan Eshpeter proved his prowess as a public speaker by winning the 1995 national public speaking competition at the *Royal Agricultural Winter Fair*.

This spring, the 17-year-old Daysland 4-H Small Engines Club member earned the title of Alberta's top 4-H speaker against 13 other contestants. IBM, the Alberta 4-H program's newest corporate supporter, sponsored Eshpeter's trip to Toronto and the Royal's competition.

"Nathan was one of two dozen speakers, mostly from Ontario, at the competition held during *National 4-H Week*," notes Mahlon Weir of Alberta Agriculture's home economics and 4-H branch.

"We're very proud that he represented Alberta and the provincial 4-H program, and also proud of his accomplishments," he adds. Communications training is one emphasis of the Alberta 4-H program.

Eshpeter earned a $700 prize from the Farm Credit Corporation (FCC) for his win as well as an opportunity to spend a day with Ontario Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs staff to explore his areas of interest.

His competition topic – one of four contestants could choose from – was agriculture and tapping into the information highway. Prepared speeches are required to be between five and seven minutes in length. Contestants also had to introduce and thank another competitor as part of the speak-off.

The competition was held during *National 4-H Week, November 6 through 12*.

This was the 11th consecutive year the *Royal Agricultural Winter Fair* has hosted the speak-off. It began in 1984 during International Youth Year with the Ontario agriculture ministry as sponsor. FCC joined the sponsorship team in 1987. All youth between the ages of 16 and 24 are eligible to compete.

For more information about the competition, contact co-chairs Anne Thompson at (905)873-6811 or Ted Young at (519)821-1330.

Contact: *Mahlon Weir*
(403)422-4444
Nathan Eshpeter
(403)374-2403

Carol Sullivan
(403)422-4444

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch

Agri-News™ is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

New Alberta safety net in place for 1995 tax year

Alberta's agriculture minister has announced a new farm safety net for the 1995 tax year.

The Farm Income Stability Program (FISP) offers a host of important benefits to Alberta farmers. It's the first program of its kind in Canada to offer true "whole farm" income coverage and is designed to fit World Trade Organization/GATT "green" criteria in the agriculture agreement.

While the program reduces cost to taxpayers, it's also designed to effectively reduce variability in farmer income while minimizing the risk of trade action by any of Alberta's trading partners.

FISP will work in conjunction with crop insurance to backstop producers against severe, uncontrollable reductions in income. Bilateral negotiations with the federal government on future federal/provincial participation in the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) program are continuing. Alberta will continue to safeguard the interests of all agricultural producers in safety net design and funding.

Farmers will look after normal income variation and will decide on the appropriate crop insurance coverage. The government will become involved, through FISP, only when farm income falls outside a predictable range. Farmers can apply if their margin between agricultural income and eligible expenses suffers more than a 30 per cent drop in one year, compared to the previous three-year average. The program is designed to provide assistance to stabilize positive margins at the 70 per cent level.

The program is voluntary. FISP relies on information from three years of operation; however, beginning farmers with less experience can still have immediate coverage based on their business plan. FISP is based on income and expenses reported for income tax and is available to anyone who reports farming income on the 1995 income tax year.

"This approach is consistent with the direction provided by farmers and the Alberta Safety Net Coalition. The contributions made by farmers and the coalition were invaluable," says Walter Paszkowski, Minister of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

The Alberta Safety Net Coalition members represent Alberta and Western Canadian farm and commodity groups.

"This program is mandated for three years and subject to a review. I am confident that FISP will meet farmers' ongoing requirements," notes Paszkowski.

The FISP program will be administered by the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC). Brochures outlining how FISP works will be available from AFSC and Regional Advisory Services Offices by November 30. Application forms will be available early in the new year. For more information, farmers may call 1-800-851-5070.

Contact: *Brian Hlus or Ron Glen*
(403) 427-2137
Bob Splane
(403) 679-1302

Ray Bassett
(403) 427-1957

Editors and new directors: A backgrounder on FISP is available from the Communications Division at (403)427-2127.

Farm bookkeeping focus of new home study course

If you own a farm business, you can profit from getting your business books in order and learning how to use your records for decision-making says Alberta Agriculture's home study program co-ordinator.

Keys to Farm Bookkeeping is the program's newest resource. "It's been designed to help farm managers develop a bookkeeping system that will provide a solid base for decision-making and financial analysis," says Faye Douglas Phillips.

Eight keys to farm bookkeeping are covered under three main headings. These include getting ready to record transactions, bookkeeping procedures and using your records for decision-making.

"In each module, you'll use examples and exercises that relate to your own business. Then you'll use your own records to create a ledger. You will also apply what you've learned in a case study," she notes.

Like other Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development home studies, Keys to Farm Bookkeeping is designed so people can work through it at their own pace, in their own home.

"There's a bonus for anyone who buys the course between now and January 31," adds Douglas Phillips.

Instead of the regular $45 plus GST price tag, Keys to Farm Bookkeeping is available at an introductory price of $36 plus GST. This 20 per cent discount runs until Jan. 31, 1996. Orders from outside Alberta require an additional handling fee.

To order, write the Home Study Program, 201 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 and make cheques payable to the Provincial Treasurer. Or order using your credit card (VISA and Mastercard), by calling (403)427-2171.

Application forms for this and all other home study programs are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or by calling the home study program at (403)427-2171. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Cont'd on page 3

The course was developed jointly with the department's home economics and 4-H branch.

Contact: *Faye Douglas Phillips*
(403)427-2171

Dung beetle count start to biological control research

Yuck is the most likely immediate reaction to working with cow dung, even if it's research toward biological control of cattle pests that will save the cattle industry millions of dollars.

Cow patties are the natural habitat for pests of and parasites on cattle as well as predators of both. Ali Khan, Alberta Agriculture's livestock entomologist, and beef specialists in southern and northeast regions started a project this summer to look at those cow patties. Their goal is an inventory of the biological resources such as dung beetles that can be used to control two of the most troublesome pests – horn flies and face flies.

In a severely infected herd, a cow can carry up to 5,000 and a bull up to 10,000 of the blood sucking horn flies. These flies cost Alberta's cattle an estimated $43 million annually. Face flies irritate cattle and disrupt grazing, and more seriously carry pathogens for pink-eye and eyeworm.

"Our concern is increased resistance of these flies to both old and new insecticides," says Khan. "Biological control is one option entomologists are exploring."

Khan and a team of nine department beef specialists began their inventory of potential biological controls – predators of the horn and face flies that are found in cattle dung – during the summer of 1995.

"Our preliminary data shows there are four groups of beneficial dung beetles and parasitic wasps that are potential biological controls for fly egg larva and pupae," he says.

Four types of dung beetles were identified this season. They are dung roller beetles, dung burying beetles, dung feeding beetles and predatory beetles. Each type uses the manure differently and so would act as a control agent in distinct ways.

For example, dung burying beetles dig tunnels under cow patties. They fill the tunnels with manure and lay their eggs there. Their activity buries manure so it can't be used as a breeding ground by the flies. It also has other environmental benefits such as loosening and fertilizing soil.

Contact: *Dr. Ali Khan*
(403)427-5083

AFAC still on ALERT

The Alberta Care Action Line and Resource Team (ALERT) has celebrated its first anniversary of farmer-helping-farmer promotion of responsible animal care.

ALERT was formed just over a year ago by the Alberta Foundation for Animal Care (AFAC). "The first year was a pilot to evaluate the need. AFAC has decided to continue the service because Alberta's livestock producers have requested it," says AFAC's Susan Kitchen.

"The board also supports ALERT because the team has been able to improve situations of unacceptable conditions," she adds.

The toll-free action line is confidential. Anyone who witnesses unacceptable animal care or conditions is encouraged to call 1-800-506-CARE (1-800-506-2273).

A resource team of trained volunteers respond to the calls. Team members are producers themselves. The team provides non-confrontational solutions to help producers practice responsible animal care.

"The program's intent is to prevent abuse or neglect of farm animals. It's also one way of demonstrating to the general public that Alberta's livestock producers care about their stock," notes Kitchen.

Concerns about treatment of pets should be reported directly to the Alberta SPCA or a local Humane Society. Obvious livestock abuse or neglect will be handled by the Alberta SPCA, the agency responsible for enforcing the Animal Protection Act.

For more information about AFAC or the ALERT line, call Kitchen in Calgary at (403)777-0445, fax (403)777-0447 or write Cambrian P.O. Box 75028, Calgary, Alberta, T2K 6J8.

Contact: *Susan Kitchen*
(403)777-0445

ANIMAL CARE
ALERT
Action Line & Resource Team
1-800-506-CARE (2273)
Alberta Foundation for Animal Care
The future of Alberta's livestock industry is in our hands.

Saddle up with horse conference speakers

Not just any saddle will do, and Ken Cameron will explain how to know your saddle fits your horse at the 1996 *Horse Breeders and Owners Conference*.

Cameron presents his session on the second day of the conference, Saturday Jan. 13. The conference starts on Jan. 12 with an evening reception and concludes on the afternoon of Jan. 14.

"Ken is one of the local experts on the '96 program," notes Les Burwash, manager of Alberta Agriculture's equine programs and one of the conference organizers.

Cameron, who'll discuss the correct fit of both western and english saddles, has been a custom saddle maker for 28 years. He's taught saddle making and leather working at Olds College for five years. He also operates a retail saddlery and western wear store in Red Deer.

As a horseman who enjoys many aspects of horse activities, Cameron will share not only his perspective as a saddle maker, but also a riders' viewpoint.

Cameron's presentation is part of a conference lineup featuring topics related to equine production, business and riding. The annual conference has four streams – Arabian, Quarter Horse, Thoroughbreds and all breeds – in its program. Conference participants aren't limited to any one stream and receive the printed materials from all the sessions.

Conference registration is same rate again for 1996. Registration is $75 per person with every additional person from the same farm at $50.

For more information about the 1996 conference, contact Burwash in Airdrie at (403)948-8532. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: *Les Burwash*
(403)948-8532

MAP to strategic alliances on the farm

The traditional image of farmers is of someone who is their own boss, master of their fields and livestock. While farming in 1995 still allows independent decision-making, the business of farming requires new business relationships to compete in a global marketplace.

Vertical strategic alliances (VSAs) are one of those alternatives, and is one of the topics at the 1996 Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP'96) conference Jan. 30 through Feb. 1 in Red Deer.

Wayne Howard, an agricultural economics and business professor from the University of Guelph, will present VSA concepts at a MAP'96 conference session. His session, *Vitalize your business relationships*, is on day one of the conference and will be presented once in the morning and once in the afternoon.

"Dr. Howard will also discuss the practical side of VSAs through case studies of existing VSA arrangements," says Doug Barlund, 1996 MAP conference chair.

MAP is Western Canada's premiere conference on leading edge farm management issues and is dedicated to *smart farming*. The 1996 conference theme is mastering markets. "While this theme is emphasized in the conference program, other areas of farm business management are covered in both plenary and select-a-sessions," notes Barlund.

Conference information is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) offices across the province. Registration and conference details are also available through the MAP hotline by calling 1-800-387-6030 or on Internet at poole@agric.gov.ab.ca.

Contact: *Doug Barlund*
(403)556-4245

Agri-News briefs

CFA photo contest deadline Jan. 8, 1996

Deadlines close Jan. 8 for the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's special photo contest in celebration of the CFA's 60th anniversary. There are youth and adult divisions. Entrants, or a member of their immediate family, must have agriculture as their primary occupation. Entrants can submit a group of four photographs depicting the important contribution agriculture makes to society in one, two or all three competition categories. They are food production, sustainable farming and farm family/community. For more information, call, fax or write the CFA office. The telephone number is (613)236-3633, fax (613)236-5749 or write Suite #1101, 75 Albert Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5E7.

New delegates at ACC annual general meeting

There will be 16 new delegates at the Alberta Cattle Commission's annual general meeting Dec. 4 through 6 in Edmonton. The annual general meeting follows the association's fall producer and election meetings. Resolutions passed at those meetings will be presented to the annual general meeting early next month. "Every year, the scope and depth of issues facing the industry seems to increase," says Arno Doerksen, producer liaison committee chair. "We have a good mix of experienced delegates who know the issues and new delegates who can bring a different perspective to the table." Among those issues are land use, wildlife, new provincial water management legislation, the environment, health and nutrition. For more information, contact Doerksen at (403)641-2498 or Ron Glaser at the ACC office in Calgary at (403)275-4400.

Montana Safflower Symposium Jan. 17-18

Top safflower researchers from Canada and the U.S. will be featured at a two-day safflower symposium in Great Falls, Montana. The program includes the latest from the birdseed and oil industry on safflower marketing, opportunities and outlooks. Researchers will discuss breeding, weed control and diseases. For more information, contact Beata Lees, Alberta Agriculture special crop specialist, in Lethbridge at (403)381-5127.

International dairy specialist speakers Dec. 11 in Olds

Three dairy organizations are sponsoring a one-day seminar Dec. 11 featuring Michael Hutjens. Hutjens, an internationally recognized speaker, will discuss two topics. In the morning, his subject is transition feeding strategies. The afternoon session is on rumen dynamics. There's also an open forum for questions at the program's conclusion. Registration is $15. The seminar is co-sponsored by the Calgary Milk Producers' Association (CMPA), the Southern Alberta Holstein Club and the Dairy Extension Advisory Committee. To reserve a spot, call the CMPA office at (403)541-0911 or fax (403)541-0915, or contact Dieter Frost at (403)335-4408.

81st provincial poultry, rabbit and cavy show Dec. 1-3

The Calgary Exhibition and Stampede will host the 81st annual *Alberta Provincial Poultry, Rabbit and Cavy Show* Dec. 1 through 3. The show will be held in the Agriculture Pavilion at Stampede Park. The three-day event features over 500 different classes for bantams, cavies, fancy pigeons, guinea fowl, homer pigeons, pheasants, turkeys, waterfowl, other poultry and rabbits. One feature is the world's rooster crowing contest. For more information, contact Charlene Dittmer at (403)261-0313 in Calgary or toll-free across North America at 1-800-661-1260.

Grazing lands forum in Washington, D.C.

The 10th annual *Grazing Lands Forum* runs Dec. 7 in Washington, D.C. The annual meeting for policy makers, scientists, private land owners, land managers and others with an interest in U.S. grazing lands is being organized by the Society for Range Management (national capital section). The 1995 theme is partners in conservation and is designed to highlight the value of partnerships between private and public sectors as well as explore ways such partnerships can be enhanced and encouraged. For more information, contact Ralph Griffen at (202)205-1455, Deen Boe at (202)215-1462 or Jim Fox at (202)452-7744 in Washington, D.C.

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AGRI-NEWS

December 4, 1995

New freight rates available on-line

Prairie freight rates for grain transportation from nearly 1,200 delivery points throughout the western Prairie provinces to Vancouver/Prince Rupert and Thunder Bay are now available electronically through FBMInet in Western Canada.

RAILRATE is a new electronic database that contains freight rate information for all grain delivery points in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. FBMInet is a national electronic bulletin board.

The figures in the database were prepared by Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's agricultural transporation branch. "We used a variety of information sources to put together the database," notes Cliff Weber, head of the agricultural transportation branch. "Those sources included freight rate information published by the railways."

Freight rates for non-Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) grains are listed in the database. Also listed are freight deductions for CWB grains. The freight deductions incorporate a freight adjustment factor provided by the CWB for individual grains. Dockage, elevation and other charges specific to the local delivery point are not included in the database.

"The database will be updated as changes to rates occur," he notes.

Statutory rates for grain transportation were set once each crop year by the National Transportation Agency when the Western Grain Transportation Act (WGTA) was in force. These statutory rates, and the WGTA, were eliminated effective Aug. 1.

"RAILRATE is an important planning tool for farmers in their crop planning process as it can provide a means of assessing the impact of changing freight rates and pooling points as a part of their shipping cost, and for comparing local, domestic or export market alternatives and enterprise opportunities," says Paul Gervais, WGTA transition project co-ordinator at Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.

"With this new system, freight rates can change at any time throughout the crop year," he adds. "And that isn't the only variable farmers must consider. Others include input costs, land prices and both rental arrangements and rates."

Also on Aug. 1, the Canadian Wheat Board pooling system was changed. Changes are being phased in over a three year period, with the intention that farmers will pay the cost to

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch

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position their grain at an export port. Before August 1, farmers in the eastern Prairies paid the transportation cost to Thunder Bay, while the CWB paid costs to move grain through the St. Lawrence Seaway.

"RAILRATE is only one example of the many databases that can be accessed via FBMInet," notes Bruce Waldie, provincial computer applications specialist. FBMInet is available to anyone with a computer, a modem and telephone line. [For more information, see a separate story on FBMInet.]

Contact:	*Cliff Weber*	*Paul Gervais*	*Bruce Waldie*
	(403)427-0364	*(403)556-4250*	*(403)556-4243*

Databases plus on FBMInet

When Alberta Agriculture started its Compu-Farm bulletin board 11 years ago, the electronic information age was in its infancy. Today, the service has grown up and into the national FBMInet network.

One of FBMInet's most recent additions is RAILRATE, a database on Prairie freight rates. Databases are one of five different services offered on this electronic bulletin board. They are also one of the biggest growth areas on FBMInet says Bruce Waldie, Alberta Agriculture's provincial computer applications specialist.

Another growth area is subscription services to particular information such as weekly market reports. Examples include Canfax and the Palliser Farm Market Strategy.

FBMInet also has a perishable information service. This time sensitive information such as news releases and other announcements is updated and replaced frequently. [Editor's note: **Agri-News** is available on FBMInet].

An interactive part of the network is public messaging. This allows a user in one province to post a public message and automatically distribute it across Canada. "This is a fast and interesting way to answer questions and gather information," says Waldie.

The network can also be used to share computer files. As well, a private electronic mail system allows users to exchange information directly with another user.

FBMInet will celebrate its third anniversary in April 1996. Waldie and colleague David Thacker received funding from the Canadian Farm Business Management Council to expand the Alberta bulletin board into a national network.

"Through these nearly three years, we've added provincial and specialized nodes across the country for a total of 21 access points," notes Waldie.

Over the past 30 months, the system has generated over 120,000 calls and has over 13,000 registered users.

An Internet link is in the works and will likely be up and running sometime in 1996.

For more information about FBMInet, a starter kit, user guide or workshop, contact Waldie in Olds at (403)556-4243.

Contact: Bruce Waldie
(403)556-4243

Modem, starter kit and you're on FBMInet

If you have a computer, a modem and a telephone line, then you can access FBMInet.

The national electronic bulletin board provides farm business management and other agricultural information on databases, through sharing computer files, by subscription, through public messaging and via e-mail.

"There's a variety of ways we can help you get linked to FBMInet," says Bruce Waldie, Alberta Agriculture's provincial computer applications specialist. Waldie is also the system operator for Alberta and one of the founders of both the provincial and national networks.

A quick access guide, a comprehensive FBMInet User Guide and a FBMInet starter kit are available from Waldie at the farm business management branch in Olds. You can contact him at (403)556-4243, fax (403)556-7545 or write 201, Provincial Building, 5030-50 Street, Olds, AB, T4H 1S1.

As well, there are two-day workshops that explain how to access FBMInet as well as other electronic information sources. For more information about these workshops, contact your local Alberta Agriculture district office.

Contact: Bruce Waldie
(403)556-4243

Cooking turkey takes less time

Buy yourself an early Christmas present – a meat thermometer – and earn up to an extra hour of time with your family on Christmas.

"National research has shown turkey needs less time than was traditionally thought necessary to be thoroughly and safely cooked," says Janice Shields of the Alberta Turkey Growers' Marketing Board.

An on-going research study, funded by the national turkey agency, is looking into the amount of time and temperature level needed to safely cook turkey. [See chart on page 4.]

A stuffed, whole turkey is safely cooked when the internal temperature of the thigh meat reaches 180°F, or 82°C. An unstuffed turkey is safe at a slightly lower temperature, 170°F, or 77°C.

Cont'd on page 3

"Cooks will need a meat thermometer to check those temperatures, but that investment pays off in reduced cooking times," says Shields.

For example, the time needed to cook a 10 to 12 pound (4.5 to 5.5 kg) turkey is approximately three and half to four hours. A time saving, notes Shields, of 30 minutes to an hour compared to previous cooking charts.

"This is great news for cooks who traditionally viewed cooking a whole turkey as a time-consuming chore," she adds. "They'll be able to cook and serve turkey in less time, so have more time out of the kitchen.

"That was exactly the purpose of the study – to show consumers that whole turkeys can be cooked safely in a shorter amount of time."

Shields also reminds cooks – or families – who want turkey, but not a whole bird, to look for a variety of turkey parts. Grocery stores now carry drumsticks, wings and breasts. Turkey fillets, ground turkey and turkey based luncheon meats are also available.

Contact: Janice Shields
465-5755

How to cook Christmas – at least, your turkey

Thawing, stuffing, cooking and dealing with leftovers are the order we deal with Christmas turkey.

"All these steps involve food safety," notes Linda St. Onge, an Alberta Agriculture food and nutrition specialist. "Taking care in preparation and serving is for your family's and guests' benefit."

The first issue is related to thawing the turkey. Two methods are recommended by the experts at the Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency. One is putting the bird in the refrigerator to thaw. The other, is soaking in cold water.

"Using the refrigerator is the longer method. You'll need to leave the bird in your fridge about 10 hours for every kilogram of meat," notes St. Onge.

In comparison, thawing in cold water takes about two hours per kilogram of meat. St. Onge has a few tips on using this method. "Start by leaving the turkey in its wrapping. Cover the turkey with cold water. Replace the water every few hours," she says.

St. Onge adds a turkey can also be thawed in the microwave. "Check the manufacturer's instructions," she advises.

"And whatever you do, don't leave your turkey out on the counter to thaw. That's an invitation for potential food poisoning," she emphasizes.

Once the turkey is thawed, it should be kept in the refrigerator and cooked within 48 hours. "Again, never leave it sitting out at room temperature," she adds.

Stuff the turkey immediately before sticking it in the oven. "Never do it the night before, and the maximum safety is in cooking the stuffing separately from the turkey," says St. Onge

Warm stuffing creates an ideal environment for bacterial growth. Its presence in the bird can be hazardous before, during and after the turkey is cooked.

"You can cook stuffing separately in a casserole dish. The only thing you'd do differently than if you were stuffing the bird, is to add extra liquid so the stuffing is moist enough to stick together," she says. Add 25 millilitres (ml) [two tablespoons] of liquid for each 250 to 375 ml (one to one and a half cups) of dressing. Juices from the turkey's roasting pan is a good choice, she notes. The casserole stuffing should be cooked in the oven for the last half hour of roasting time.

On the other hand, if you prefer to stick with the traditionally stuffed bird, St. Onge has more advice. "Once the turkey is cooked, immediately remove all the stuffing. If stuffing isn't removed, it may stay warm long enough for bacteria to contaminate the leftover turkey and stuffing."

The best roasting temperature for turkey is 325°F (160°C). Higher temperatures cause protein toughening and shrinkage. Lower temperatures aren't recommended because naturally present bacteria might not be killed.

"Once the turkey has started roasting it must be completely cooked before removing from the oven," St. Onge says. The turkey can be covered with a loose tent of aluminum foil. During the last half hour of cooking, remove foil to baste and allow the bird to brown. The most reliable way to test "doneness" is with a meat thermometer.

"The Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency has just come out with new recommendations about internal temperature and doneness. But, you do need a meat thermometer to do this check," says St. Onge. An internal thigh muscle temperature of 180°F (82°C) indicates the turkey is cooked. The internal temperature of stuffing should be at least 165°F (74°C). **[See separate story in this issue.]** After cooking, keep the turkey hot, above 140°F (60°C) or refrigerate at below 40°F (4°C). "The simple rule is keep it hot, or refrigerate it," says St. Onge.

There are also rules for leftovers. Cooked turkey can be stored in the refrigerator for three to four days. It can be stored in the freezer for up to four months. Leftover stuffing must be refrigerated and used within three days.

Contact: Linda St. Onge
427-2412

New Roasting Times For Whole Turkeys

*** New research shows whole turkeys take less time to cook!**

Use these new cooking times to prepare roast turkey that's moist, tender and delicious.

Oven times

325°F (160°C)

Weight		Stuffed	Unstuffed
6 – 8 lbs	(3.0 – 3.5 kg)	3 – 3¼ hrs	2½ – 2¾ hrs
8 – 10 lbs	(3.5 – 4.5 kg)	3¼ – 3½ hrs	2¾ – 3 hrs
10 – 12 lbs	(4.5 – 5.5 kg)	3½ – 3¾ hrs	3 – 3¼ hrs
12 – 16 lbs	(5.5 – 7.0 kg)	3¾ – 4 hrs	3¼ – 3½ hrs
16 – 22 lbs	(7.0 – 10.0 kg)	4 – 4½ hrs	3½ – 4 hrs

Your turkey is done when:

- a meat thermometer in the inner thigh reads 180°F (82°C) for a stuffed turkey.
- a meat thermometer in the inner thigh reads 170°F (77°C) for a unstuffed turkey.
- it is a golden colour and the skin has pulled back from the tips of drumsticks. When cooked to perfection, the meat and juices may have a pink tinge.
- when the turkey is done remove it from the oven. Cover it with foil and let it stand 15 – 20 minutes before carving.

* Diversified Research for the Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency 1994.

Add new zest to stuffing and leftovers

For most Canadians, Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a festive turkey and trimmings meal, followed by the inevitable leftovers.

Cooks who want to try something different within the boundaries of tradition have some options.

"You can add new flavors to your Christmas meal by trying a new type of stuffing," says Janice Shields, promotion co-ordinator for the Alberta Turkey Growers Marketing Board.

Shields has two suggestions, a savory rice stuffing and a holiday nut stuffing. Both recipes are available from the provincial turkey board office in Edmonton.

"Dealing with leftovers can be a strain, and we have some new recipes featuring cooked turkey that can help use your leftover turkey in exciting and flavorful ways," says Shields.

One option is a variation on a meat pie, crunchy turkey and cranberry pie. Shields other suggestions include a cheesy tomato and turkey bake, turkey pita wedges, calypso turkey salad and turkey apple stir fry.

For a copy of these recipes as well as more information about the new turkey cooking times, contact Shields at the Alberta Turkey Growers Marketing Board at 212,8711A-50 Street, Edmonton, AB, T6B 1E7.

Contact: Janice Shields
(403)465-5755

Choose the breed and follow the stream

The 1996 **Horse Breeders and Owners Conference** offers the equine industry both an overall look and breed specific streams.

The breed specific programs are for Arabians, Quarter Horse and Thoroughbred sectors. The Jan. 12 through 14 conference also features an all breeds program with general interest topics. The conference is at the Capri Centre in Red Deer.

"While we've planned the four streams so participants can focus on their breed, the conference design is flexible and participants can attend any of the sessions," notes Les Burwash, manager of Alberta Agriculture's equine programs and one of the conference organizers. Conference participants also receive all the printed materials from the sessions.

Al Dunning, one of the Quarter Horse industry's respected performance experts will make two presentations. The Scottsdale, Arizona trainer and rider will discuss conformation as a world of optimums. Dunning believes balance and tying conformation to performance are keys to identifying a well-conformed horse. He'll discuss optimums versus ideals.

His second topic focuses on the last 30 to 45 days before a major competition. Dunning will describe how both horse and rider must be physically and mentally prepared to compete.

The Thoroughbred program features two speakers from the thoroughbred mecca of Kentucky. Dan Rosenberg will discuss using a computer on today's horse farm and in the future, as well as farm management to survive in a changing industry. Rich Wilkie's topic is developing local support for racing as a sport.

In the Arabian stream, well known judge Peter Cameron of St. Catharine's, Ontario will discuss what an judges look for.

Other topics on the conference agenda include industry trends, forage utilization, goal setting for fearless riding, how horses see, prevention and control of strangles, feed additives in horse rations, water/electrolyte balance in performance horses and know how your saddle fits your horse.

Conference registration is the same rate again for 1996. Registration is $75 per person with every additional person from the same farm at $50.

Cont'd on page 5

For more information about the 1996 conference, contact Burwash in Airdrie at (403)948-8532. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Les Burwash
(403)948-8532

MAP to better communication

You talk with your family members, but do you really communicate with the people who are also part of your farm business?

The 1996 Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP'96) conference, Jan. 30 through Feb. 1 in Red Deer, offers participants the opportunity to become better communicators.

"Open and effective communication is a business skill just like marketing, so MAP includes sessions on honing communication skills," says Doug Barlund, 1996 MAP conference chair.

Consultant Jan Hollingsworth will present a session about creating confident communicators twice on day two, Jan. 31. Hollingsworth will highlight perception, communication styles, verbal and non-verbal skills, and listening and responding techniques.

"She'll provide a fresh and creative look at communication with people at home and work," he notes.

Another communications specialist is returning to MAP in 1996. "Participants consistently rate Gordon Colledge highly for his blend of humor and common sense, and he's back again this year to talk about another element of communication," says Barlund.

Colledge's topic is keeping your cool in hot times. He'll discuss how to control reactions to events and how those choices make a difference in personal and business relationships.

"Gordon will talk about dealing with constant change and its challenges and frustrations. As he says, people need to understand that it's not what is happening to me, but rather what happens in me," adds Barlund.

MAP is Western Canada's premiere conference on leading edge farm management issues and is dedicated to *smart farming*. The 1996 conference theme is mastering markets. The conference includes a variety of farm business management topics including economic outlooks, financial management and human resources.

Conference information is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) offices across the province. Registration and conference details are also available through the MAP hotline by calling 1-800-387-6030 or on the Internet at poole@agric.gov.ab.ca.

Contact: Doug Barlund
(403)556-4245

4-H Foundation hires executive director

The 4-H Foundation of Alberta has expanded its service to present and potential clients by hiring an executive director.

Barry McDonald will work from the foundation's provincial 4-H Centre in Battle Lake. As executive director he'll oversee the centre's operations, put a greater emphasis on marketing the facility and work with the foundation's board.

McDonald's isn't a stranger to 4-H circles. His association goes back to his youth when he was a member of grain, poultry and beef clubs. In 1964, he was chosen as the first Premier's Award recipient as the province's top 4-Her. Through the years, McDonald also won public speaking competitions, participated at provincial 4-H club weeks and was awarded a trip to National Club Week. Later he acted as a resource person, judged public speaking and served on the foundation's board of directors.

"4-H has always been an important part of my life," says McDonald. "I am pleased to have this opportunity to serve this worthy organization."

McDonald is also well known in the business community for his marketing and job placement work with Lakeland College, as well as campus manager in St. Paul and Vegreville. Since joining Ingersoll-Williams as an associate in 1987, he has gained international recognition for conducting research, facilitating workshops and assisting organizations with change.

"We feel we are very lucky to have the commitment and experience of Mr. McDonald as our executive director to manager the affairs of the foundations," says board chair Jerry Hall.

The foundation was established by the Alberta 4-H Council in 1977 as a non-profit organization to seek, receive and administer funds and other resources on behalf of 4-H. Since that historic day, the foundation, with the caring and generosity of all friends of 4-H, has purchased 143 acres of land at Battle Lake, developed and maintained an impressive provincial 4-H facility, established a scholarship fund and generally has become an integral part of 4-H in Alberta.

For more information about the 4-H Foundation of Alberta call foundation chair Jerry Hall in Calgary at (403)263-4594, foundation executive assistant Vicki Berger in Edmonton at (403)427-2541 or fax (403)438-3362, or McDonald at (403)682-2153 or fax (403)682-3784.

Contact: Barry McDonald Vicki Berger Jerry Hall
(403)682-2153 (403)427-2541 (403)263-4594

Agri-News briefs

Prairie Water News Fall edition out

The fall 1995 edition of the **Prairie Water News** is now available from Alberta Agriculture district and regional offices as well as the department's public lands offices. Spring and Fall editions of the newsletter dedicated to improving and protection rural water supplies have been published since 1991. Topics in this edition include watering range livestock, a water treatment demonstration trailer in Saskatchewan, biological treatment of drinking water, improving dugout water quality, working with wet wells, linking water quality and livestock productivity, *giardia* and *cryptosporidium* in Prairie water supplies, chemical concerns in drinking water and foam swabbing. There's also a round-up of the June *Rural Water Quality on the Prairies Workshop*. The newsletter is co-sponsored by the Saskatchewan Research Council, Alberta Agriculture, Sask Water and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA). For more information, contact Bob Buchanan in Barrhead at (403)674-8252.

CBI launches ultrasound service

Canadian Beef Improvement Inc. (CBI) has launched the next generation of genetic improvement – the CBI Ultrasound. It provides completely automated, chute-side delivery of four essential carcass quality measurements – backfat thickness, ribeye area, predicted lean meat yield and a marbling estimate. "This new service is a major milestone in beef genetic management for profit," says Ken Aylesworth, CBI executive director. "It provides a live-animal carcass evaluation early in the animal's life. This means the industry can predict the genetic potential of an animal much earlier than in the past, and, predict it more accurately." The CBI Ultrasound was demonstrated during the Canadian Western Agribition. CBI is a beef industry owned genetic improvement company. For more information, contact Aylesworth in Calgary at (403)571-2070.

Fairview Beef Cattle Days Jan. 13

Cow costs and solar dugout pumps are two of the topics at Beef Cattle Days in Fairview on Jan. 13. The Fairview College theatre is the venue. For more information, contact Trevor Jones in Fairview at (403)835-2241 or 1-800-449-2106.

WCWGA convention Jan. 3-5 in Regina

The freedom to profit is the theme of the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association 1996 convention Jan. 3 through 5 in Regina. The convention's first day features a tour of Saskferco Production, a world-scale nitrogen fertilizer complex. Session topics include managing producer risk, Texas gates across the 49th parallel, alternative shipping routes and options, value-added processing in a post-Crow environment, improving transportation and handling system efficiency and the government agenda with scheduled speaker federal agriculture minister Ralph Goodale. For more information, contact the WCWGA head office in Regina at (306)586-5866 or the Alberta office at (403)985-2282 in Calmar.

AAFRD and AFSC office closed through Christmas season

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) offices, like other provincial government office, will be closed between Friday, Dec. 22 and Tuesday, Jan. 2, 1996. All offices across the province will close at the end of the day on Dec. 21 and re-open on the morning of Jan. 2. This is the second year of Christmas closures, part of a government plan to reduce payroll costs.

Coming agricultural events

Applied Research/Forage Association Conference
Royal West Inn
Edmonton December 4-5
Jeanne Bisson-(403)837-2211-Falher;
Merv Empey-(403)836-3354-Manning

Alberta Cattle Commission Annual General Meeting
Fantasyland Hotel
Edmonton December 4-6
Ron Glaser-(403)275-4400-Calgary

Winds of Change – Farm Management in Uncertain Times, 1995 Farm Business Conference
London Convention Centre, London, Ontario December 5-6
Tammy or Corie-(204)944-5683-Winnipeg;
toll-free 1-800-665-8147

National Research Council 7th Annual Biotechnology Conference
Sheraton Centre
Montreal, Quebec December 4-6
Doris Ruest-(613)993-9228-Ottawa, Ontario

Alberta Pulse Growers Commission Annual Meeting
Fantasyland Hotel
Edmonton December 6-8
Janette McDonald Adam-(403)782-7838-Lacombe

Kidding and Kid Management – Keys to Successful Goatkeeping Seminar
Provincial Building
Hanna December 9
Jeanette Gross-(403)854-2208-Hanna

Seed Growers Workshop
Olds College December 11-12
Bill Witbeck-(403)782-4641-Lacombe or (403)340-7152-Red Deer

Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission 5th Annual Meeting
Galt and Magrath Rooms – Sven Ericksen's Restaurant
Lethbridge December 12
AWWPC office-(403)328-0059-Lethbridge

Pembina Forage Association Annual Tour
Smoky Lake/Thorhild area December 13
PFA office-(403)349-4546-Westlock

1996

The Freedom to Profit – Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association Annual Convention
Regina Inn
Regina, Saskatchewan January 3-5
WCWA office-(306)586-5866-Regina, Saskatchewan;
Alberta office-(403)985-2282-Calmar

Crop Production Week (Saskatchewan)
Saskatoon Inn
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan January 8-13
Holly-(306)668-2380-Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Cattleman's Corral
Exhibition Grounds
Lloydminister January 9-10
Val Hanson or Michael Sidoryk-(306)825-5571-Lloydminster, Saskatchewan

1996 Unifarm Annual Convention
Best Western Westwood Inn
Edmonton January 9-11
Shirley Dyck-(403)451-5912-Edmonton

Western Canadian Crop Production Show including the 3rd Annual Seager Wheeler Pedigreed Seed Show
Saskatoon Prairieland Exhibition Corporation
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan January 9-12
Rudy Friesen-(306)931-7149-Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Canada West Equipment Dealers Association Annual General Meeting and Convention
Westin Hotel
Edmonton January 11-13
William Lipsey-(403)250-7581-Calgary

Horse Breeders and Owners Conference
Capri Centre
Red Deer January 12-14
Les Burwash-(403)948-8532-Airdrie; Bob Coleman-(403)427-5096-Edmonton

Alberta Cattle Feeders Association Annual Convention and Trade Show
Marlborough Inn
Calgary January 12-13
Ron Axelson-(403)250-2509-Calgary or 1-800-363-8598 (Alberta only)

Alberta 4-H Leaders Conference
Convention Inn
Edmonton January 12-14
Penny Wilkes-(403)427-2541 or (403)422-4444-Edmonton

Beef Cattle Days
Fairview College
Fairview January 13
Trevor Jones-(403)835-2241-Fairview; or, 1-800-449-2106

Pembina Forage Association Annual Meeting
Glenreagh Hall January 17
PFA office-(403)349-4546-Westlock

Alberta Canola Producers Commission Annual Convention
Hilton Hotel
Edmonton January 17-18
Bruce Jeffery-(403)452-6487-Edmonton

Joint Canada/U.S. Safflower Symposium
@EVENTS BODY = Holiday Inn

Great Falls, Montana January 17-18
Beata Lees-(403)381-5127-Lethbridge

2nd Annual National (U.S.) Bison Association Winter Conference
Red Lion Hotel
Denver, Colorado, USA January 17-20
NBA-(303)292-2564(fax)-Denver, Colorado

Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants Annual Meeting
Westin Hotel
Edmonton January 18-20
Bill Witbeck-(403)782-4641-Lacombe

10th Anniversary Canadian Bull Congress
Camrose Regional Exhibition Centre
Camrose January 19-20
Teryl Fankhanel or Judy Finseth-(403)672-3640-Camrose

Banff Pork Seminar
The Banff Centre
Banff January 23-26
Judy Carss-(403)492-2343-Edmonton

AIA Edmonton Branch McGregor Public Speaking Competition
Faculty Club, University of Alberta
Edmonton January 24
Tracy Hanson-(403)441-4303-Edmonton

Alberta Branch Canadian Seed Growers Association Annual Meeting
Westin Hotel
Edmonton January 30-February 1
Bill Witbeck-(403)782-4641-Lacombe or (403)340-7152-Red Deer

18th Annual Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP) Conference
Capri Centre
Red Deer January 30-February 1
Lynn Poole-1-800-387-6030-Alberta;
Doug Barlund-(403)556-4245-Olds

Effective Forage and Livestock Management Conference
Western Development Museum
North Battleford, Saskatchewan January 30-31
Brendan Kowalenko-(306)228-6402-Unity, Saskatchewan

Canadian Association of Agri-Retailers 19th Annual Convention and Trade Show
Hotel Fort Garry
Winnipeg, Manitoba January 30-February 2
Jacqueline Ryrie-(204)989-9300-Winnipeg, Manitoba

Rural Crime Watch Week
Alberta January 29-February 4
Cliff Munroe-(403)427-4241-Edmonton;
Lynn Roberts-(403)470-0287-Edmonton

Farm Business Challenges'96
Delta Pacific Resort and Conference Centre
Richmond, B.C. February 1-3
Lawrence Hurd-(604)556-3089;
Don Magnusson-(604)556-3073-Abbotsford, B.C.

Provincial Rural Crimewatch Workshop
Carriage Inn
Calgary February 2-3
Lynn Roberts-(403)470-0287-Edmonton;
Bill Bateman-(403)932-5428-Cochrane

Western Canadian Economic Conference of the Food Industry
Marlborough Inn
Calgary February 5-6
Ted Parker-(403)427-7366-Edmonton

Outlook'96
National (Australia) Convention Centre
Canberra, Australia February 6-8
Joe Forner-(06)272 2103-Canberra, Australia

1996 Canadian International Farm Equipment Show
International Centre
Toronto, Ontario February 6-9
Lesley Nicholson-(705)741-2536-Toronto, Ontario

Canadian Charolais Association National Meeting
Hospitality Inn South
Calgary February 8-10
Joyce Stewart-(403)250-9242-Calgary

Crop Visions'96
Exhibition Grounds
Lloydminister February 12-13
Val Hanson or Michael Sidoryk-(306)825-5571-Lloydminster, Saskatchewan

Western Barley Growers Association Convention
Banff Park Lodge
Banff February 14-16
Kathryn Cooper-(403)291-3630-Calgary

33rd Annual Alberta Soil Science Workshop
Convention Inn
Edmonton February 20-22
Michelle Nutting-(403)493-8700-Edmonton

Doing Business On the Farm Trade Fair and Seminars
Camrose Regional Exhibition
Camrose February 21-22
Thom Shaw-(403)492-3885-Edmonton;
Wynn McLean-(403)672-3640-Camrose;
George Rock-(403)986-8985-Leduc

AGRIFUTURE 1996 Farm Technology Expo
Westerner Park
@EVENTS BODY = Red Deer February 22-24
Randy Bjorklund-(403)422-4385-Edmonton; Russ Evans-(403)936-5306-Calgary; Pat Kennedy-(403)347-4491 Red Deer

Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) 18th Annual Meeting
Westerner Park
Red Deer February 23
Russ Evans-(403)936-5306-Calgary

Grain World'96 – A Grains and Livestock Outlook
Westin Hotel
Winnipeg, Manitoba February 25-27
Rosa-Lynne Way-(204)984-2252-Winnipeg, Manitoba

Agriculture Week
Alberta March 3-10
Communications Division-(403)427-2127-Edmonton

National Farm Safety Week
Canada March 7-13
In Alberta contact the farm safety program office at (403)427-2171 in Edmonton

Canadian Farm Business Management Council's Managing Change: A Matter of Mindset
Westin Hotel
Winnipeg, Manitoba March 17-20
CFMBC office-(613)828-9060-Ottawa, Ontario

9th International Symposium on Virus Diseases of Ornamental Plants
Herzliya, Israel March 17-22
Ortra Ltd.-03-517-7888-Tel Aviv, Israel; e-mail orta@trendline.co.il

2nd Annual Wild Rose Classic Bison Show and Sale
Northlands Park
Edmonton March 27-30
Ken Olson-(403)584-2482-Fort Assiniboine

5th Biennial Sulphur Markets – Today and Tomorrow International Symposium
Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City Hotel
Washington, D.C. March 27-29
Harold Weber-(202)331-9660-Washington, D.C.

Northlands Farm & Ranch Show
Northlands Park
Edmonton March 28-31
Michele-(403)471-7260-Edmonton

50th Anniversary AIA Annual Meeting & Joint Meeting with FIA – Megatrends in Agriculture: The Next 50 Years
Lakeland College campus
Lloydminster April 11-13
Sonia Matichuk-(403)853-4558-Vermilion

11th National Soil Conservation Week
@EVENTS BODY = April 15-21
(Alberta contact) Barb Shackel-Hardman-(403)422-4385-Edmonton

Forest – Fish Conference: Land Management Practices Affecting Aquatic Ecosystems
Malborough Inn
Calgary May 1-4
Kerry Brewin-(403)221-8360-Calgary; or 1-800-909-6040

Alberta Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting
Black Knight Inn
Red Deer May 2-3
Corrine Moroziuk-(403)427-4248-Edmonton

Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors
Victoria Conference Centre
Victoria, B.C. May 26-29
CCGD office-(514)982-0267-Montreal, Quebec

Agricultural Biotechnology Conference (ABIC'96)
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan June 11-14
The Signature Group-(306)934-1772-Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

6th International Conference on Computers in Agriculture
Marriott CasaMagna Hotel
Cancún, Mexico June 11-14
Fedro Zazueta-(904)392-7260-Gainsville, Florida;
e-mail FSZ@GNV.IFASUFL.EDU

4th International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources
Leipzig, Germany June 17-23
Conference program office-(39-6)52255871-Rome, Italy;
e-mail ICPPGR@fao.org

Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary July 5-14
Exhibition & Stampede office-(403)261-0101-Calgary; or
1-800-661-1260 (Canada & U.S.)

AIC Annual Meeting—Water Resources and Agriculture: Protecting our Future
Lethbridge July 7-11
Dr. Gerald Mears-(403)327-4561-Lethbridge;
Brent Paterson-(403)381-5515-Lethbridge

6th World Rabbit Congress
Toulouse-Labège Diagora Congress Centre
Toulouse, France July 9-12
INRA-(fax)33 61 28 53 19-Castanet Cedex, France;
e-mail: lebas@toulouse.inra.fr

AG-Grow 2000 Field Days
Emerald Agricultural College
Emerald, Queensland, Australia July 11-13
James Dein-079 824244-Emerald, Queensland, Australia

Western Stock Growers' Centennial Cattle Drive
Buffalo to Medicine Hat July 20-27
Rhonda Clark-(403)250-9121-Calgary

1996 National Extension Technology Conference
Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia September 28-October 2
Bob Molleur-(706)542-8965-Athens, Georgia; Bryan Shipman-(706)542-5387-Athens, Georgia; Don Hamilton-(706)542-5350-Athens, Georgia;
listserv at NETC96-L@uga.cc.uga.edu

18th Canadian Waste Management Conference
Westin Hotel
Winnipeg, Manitoba October 7-10
Jennifer Adams-(613)723-3525-Nepean, Ontario

Editor's Note: Alberta communities host a number of local fairs. Because there are so many, they are not listed here. However, an annual list of agricultural society fairs is compiled by the agricultural education and community services branch. The booklet is available by writing Alberta Agriculture Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Please quote Agdex 007.

Coming agricultural events notice

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions **in 1996?** Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the **name, city or town, and phone number** of a **contact person** for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization). **Please include your telephone number**:

Please return this form by **February 21, 1996** ***to:***

Agri-News Editor
Communications Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
FAX (403)427-2861

("Coming agricultural events" is published four times a year in **Agri-News**.
The next list will be **March 4, 1996.**
Coming events are also updated regularly on Alberta Agriculture's Internet home page http://www.gov.ab.ca.agric~

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AGRI-NEWS

December 11, 1995

Tax deferral for drought induced livestock sales

Farmers in 13 Alberta municipalities are eligible for tax deferrals if they were forced to sell livestock because of drought conditions in 1995.

The eligible areas, in northeastern and Peace regions, are the counties of Beaver, Lamont, Minburn, Smoky River, St. Paul, Thorhild, Two Hills and Vermilion River, and the municipal districts of Bonnyville, Mackenzie, Northern Lights, Provost and Wainwright.

"If farmers are forced to sell part of their breeding herd, the *Drought Induced Sales of Breeding Animals* program allows them to defer part of that income from their 1995 taxable income," notes Merle Good of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's farm business management branch in Olds.

"This gives producers a way to replace their breeding stock in the future," he adds.

Cattle, bison and goats over 12 months old are eligible for the program's deferral. Breeding animals also include deer, elk and other similar grazing ungulates. Horses over 12 months used for commercial production of pregnant mare's urine also qualify.

The program has two deferrals. If a herd is reduced by at least 15 per cent and less than 30 per cent, producers can defer 30 per cent of the sale income. If producers are forced to sell 30 per cent or more of their breeding herd, they can defer 90 per cent of the sale. "However, if a producer buys more breeding stock in the same year, that cost must be deducted from their total sales," says Good.

Farmers must request the tax deferral when they file their 1995 income tax return. More information is available by contacting a district Revenue Canada taxation office.

Twenty four Saskatchewan municipalities as well as designated areas in Manitoba were also judged eligible for the program in 1995.

Contact:	*Merle Good* *(403)556-4237*	*Doug Duff* *(403)556-4248*

Celebrate the season with poinsettias

When Joel Poinsett introduced a native Mexican plant to the rest of North America a century ago, the poinsettia found its place as the flowering plant most synomous with Christmas.

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This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch

Agri-News™ is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

"The poinsettia's popularity probably has a lot to do with its showy red-colored bracts, the plant's modified leaves," says Shelley Barkley of the Crop Diversification Centre South in Brooks.

"In recent years, the variety of poinsettia colors have added to the color of the holiday season," she adds.

Poinsettias are available in pink, cream and white, as well as red varigated varieties. Alberta has a thiriving greenhouse poinsettia industry, and the flowering plants are available from many types of stores.

"If you buy a poinsettia for yourself or someone else, you want it to last and that means following a few simple rules," notes Barkley.

First, moving live plants in the winter can be tricky. To get your poinsettia, or any plant home, she suggests making the plant shop the last stop of the day when the inside of the car is warm.

To protect plants from the cold, use paper. Paper is a better insulator than plastic for wrapping.

While a warm car is important, don't put the plant on the floor in front of the heater vent. "Quite literally you can cook your plant by leaving it in front of a heat vent," she says.

Finally, move the plant from the car to its new home quickly and unwrap as soon as possible.

Once inside, choose a spot with bright, direct winter light for the poinsettia plant. "Low light levels cause the plant to yellow and drop leaves," notes Barkley.

Drafty spots and hot spots are both no-nos. Plants on a drafty window sills get cold or can freeze when the curtain is closed. Hot spots, such as sitting on the T.V. or in front heat ducts, can make the whole plant droop. Generally, average home temperatures of between 15 and 21°C are fine.

"Water is another critical part of keeping your poinsettia happy and healthy," she says. Water the poinsettia when the soil is dry to the touch, and never let it dry completely. Leaf shrivelling and drying indicates the plant is too dry.

Water thoroughly, and allow the excess water to drain from the pot, then dump the drip tray. If the soil is too wet, color fades in patches on the bracts and leaves.

"While pretty, decorative foil around the pot needs to be removed or have holes poked through it for the pot to drain," says Barkley. "The foil holds water, and prevents the soil from drying, and so causes color to fade."

Contact: Shelley Barkley
(403)362-3391

Choose type, then water Christmas tree

The principle that not all trees are created equal applies to the best type to use as a Christmas tree says an Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development specialist.

"Some kinds of trees do make better Christmas trees than others," says Shelley Barkley of the Crop Diversification Centre South in Brooks.

"The evenly branched Douglas fir and bushy Scots or white pine hold their needles for a long time after being cut. On the other hand, spruce trees begin shedding needles once they are cut," she adds.

Barkley has tips on both selecting a Christmas tree and taking care of it after it's home.

To start, stand up a prospective tree and gently tap the butt on the ground. "If lots of needles drop off, the tree is most likely too dry," she advises. Then, pinch the needles and bend branchlets to see if they are supple. Stiff, brittle needles and small, easily broken when bent branches also indicate a dry tree.

Another freshness test is to grab the trunk and feel for sap. Fresh trees will have sap.

Once home, cut off the bottom two inches of the tree's trunk. "This breaks the seal of sap and lets the tree take up water," explains Barkley.

A diagonal cut gives the maximum surface area. If you are not ready to set up the tree, store it outside in the garage with the cut end in a bucket of water. "But, if the water runs out, the stem will have to be recut," she warns.

Trees can also be stored outside, with the butt in a snow bank. The trunk will have to be cut before bringing it inside.

Put the tree up in the coolest part of the room away from heat sources such as a fireplace, heating vents and the television set. "That's just one of the precautions to take in reducing fire hazards," she notes.

As well, don't place the tree close to flammable drapes. Keep the tinsel away from any electrical outlets. Check that strings of lights have a bulb in every socket and there are no bare wires showing.

"Water is the final ingredient in taking care of your Christmas tree," she says. Place the tree in a sturdy stand with the butt emerged in a large reservoir of water. Never let the reservoir go dry," stresses Barkley.

Filling the reservoir with water can be tricky when the tree is fully decked out, so Barkley suggests slipping ice cubes into the reservoir instead of using a bucket or pitcher to fill it.

Once needles start to dry and fall, it's time to throw out the tree. "But don't just throw it out, check to see if your community has a recycling program. If not, the tree can be

Cont'd on page 3

used in the back yard, its boughs can be used as a mulch or decorated with suet, popcorn and other bird foods for our feathered friends," she says.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
(403)362-3391

Barley prices top concern in feeder cattle markets

Seldom is barley the number one concern when discussing feeder cattle market, but this winter could be the exception says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Barley prices have climbed rapidly and that rise is being felt in the feeder cattle market," says Ron Gietz of the market analysis and statistics branch.

With the increase in feed costs, comes higher costs of gain. With higher costs of gain, cattle feeders must bid less for their replacements in order to have a chance of making money feeding cattle he explains. "And when feed prices are climbing so sharply, an added element of uncertainty about next month's feed costs makes feeder cattle buyers more cautious than ever," he adds.

Typically, the negative price impact of higher barley prices on calves is about one cent for every 10 cent per bushel price increase. For heavier feeders, the negative price impact is less. Theoretically, the barley price rally this fall knocked about six cents off calf prices.

"If not for a strengthening U.S. fed cattle market and a lacklustre Canadian dollar, things in the feeder cattle sector could have been quite a bit worse this fall than they actually were," notes Gietz.

Even with rising barley prices, Alberta feeder cattle prices stayed fairly steady this fall, at least until the first week in November. Then, calf marketings finally increased.

"Like their U.S. counterparts, many Alberta producers were probably trying to boost gross revenues by marketing a heavier calf at a later date," he explains. "While some may have succeeded in increasing gross revenues, added expenses of keeping the calves an extra few weeks and a weaker market later in the season probably meant no net gain from the later marketing strategy."

Gietz does feel feeder cattle prices should be able to hold their own, and possibly even increase slightly up to mid-February, however he says cattle producers should ponder this point. "In addition to the usual factors of the fed cattle market and the Canadian dollar, this forecast depends on an eventual levelling off of barley prices. If feedgrain costs continue to escalate, the trend in feeder cattle prices will more likely be steady to lower," he says.

Contact: Ron Gietz
(403)427-5376

High expectations in feedgrain markets

A strong domestic market has significantly reduced Canadian feed barley exports so far this crop year says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst

By mid-November, barley exports totaled about 370,000 tonnes compared to 771,000 tonnes at the same time last year. "Apparently farmers are reluctant to deliver to the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) with local prices so strong," says Al Dooley of the market analysis and statistics branch.

"Farmers are hanging on tight to their feedgrains as sellers are clearly in the driver's seat this season," he adds. "The CWB November Pool Return Outlook has confirmed that position with a sharp rise in the feed barley forecast."

The November PRO for No. 1 CW feed barley was pegged in the $191 to $201 per tonne range, up from the October outlook of between $167 and $177 per tonne.

Part of the price increase reflects potentially high prices available for export sales into the Japanese market. "Increased export sales will tighten the domestic supply/demand balance and provide additional support to the local feed market," he notes.

Contact: Al Dooley
(403)427-5387

Optimism in slaughter cattle market

Slaughter cattle market strength should continue into the New Year, with the possibility of slightly higher fed cattle prices early on says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

Gradual price improvements in both U.S. and Canadian fed cattle markets started at the beginning of September. "By the end of November, it was plain that the gradual improvements had turned into substantial advances," says Ron Gietz of the market analysis and statistics branch.

In the last week of August, Canfax Alberta steers averaged $73.90/cwt. By late November, Alberta prices were pushing towards $86/cwt.Gietz says key factors in the market strength include seasonally declining production, moderate carcass weights and feedlots on both sides of the border keeping current in their marketings.

While the price increases have been welcomed by cattle feeders, Gietz warns it's not realistic to expect the trend to continue uninterrupted through the winter. "Somewhere along the way there are likely to be a couple of price setbacks, possibly when higher wholesale beef prices and ample supplies of competitive meats have to be sorted out around the holiday meat counter," he says.

Cont'd on page 4

Gietz expects a sideways-trending market in December, with a good possibility of slightly higher fed cattle prices early in the new year. "Before the U.S. market resumes its inevitable down slide, $70/cwt. (U.S.) prices should be attainable. Winter storms will again be an important market factor," he adds.

His Alberta price forecasts are now based on a 74 cent Canadian dollar, an optimistic U.S. outlook (compared to futures contracts) and a fairly narrow Alberta-U.S. price spread in the coming months. His Alberta Direct Sale Steer (Alberta DSS) price forecast is for a $85/cwt. December average, $87 in January, $89 in February $87 in March, $85 in April and $80 in May.

Contact: Ron Gietz
(403)427-5376

Vegetable oil poor cousin in oilseed complex

With the vegetable oil market the poor cousin in the oilseed complex this season, Alberta farmers can expect canola to trade in a narrow price range in the next months says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Obviously, if China were to come into the market in a big way, things could change rapidly," says Al Dooley of the market analysis and statistics branch.

"However, the global fundamentals for this crop year don't seem to warrant much of a price spike, in particular if EU buying interest fails to materialize," he adds.

Dooley forecasts canola prices to continue to range between $350 and $385 per tonne – to the grower – in the next couple of months. "Farmers will probably shut off sales much below the $350 per tonne level as so far deliveries have lagged last year's pace," notes Dooley.

Through mid-November, estimated deliveries were just 70 per cent of same time last year levels. "Farmers have been reluctant sellers. It seems the cutoff for their satisfaction is about $353 per tonne, or about $8 per bushel," he adds.

Some farmers have already locked in fall 1996 delivery sales at more than $375 per tonne. "With attractive prices for many commodities this season, and expectations of more land seeded to cereals next spring, new crop canola bids will be interesting to watch," says Dooley.

Contact: Al Dooley
(403)427-5387

Impressive November rally in feed pea market

Feed pea bids rallied another 75 cents per bushel during November to hit highs of $6 per bushel delivered to the plant.

"Alberta feed pea traders have maintained the previous month's competitive attitude and perhaps intensified it," says Matthew Machielse, an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "At the same time, Europeans are looking for feed stuffs and they continue to offer fancy prices.

"However, at this level, feed peas are being priced out of domestic rations and will eventually contribute to lower prices," he adds. "A rally in competitive products will be needed to prevent pressure from the domestic side," he adds. [See separate story on feedgrains.]

In the edible market, the outlook continues to hold some promise of higher prices in late winter or early spring. "It's a limited promise, given how quiet the U.S. market has been," he says. "However, if you're patient, you could see a widening premium to the current feed level."

The downside is for prices to hold steady, so storage, time value and currency exchange are the market risks. Machielse advises pea producers to have their stored peas graded to insure edible standards will be met later in the season.

Producers who have mid-quality lentils should assess whether any potential upside still exists in that market. "The mid-grade market has been distinctly different according to lentil type," notes Machielse.

The extra #3 and #3 grade Lairds moved $25 higher over November, narrowing the spread to #2 grades. "Producers should consider becoming more aggressive sellers over the next month as further price increases may be limited," he says.

Eston extra #3 grades lost $30 per tonne in a widening spread to #2 grades. "It appears #2 grade Estons are offering very good returns at this time as the spread is now back under $100 per tonne, reduced from a high of $140 per tonne under the top grade price. Producers of Eston lentils should consider further pricing of both #1 and #2, but continue to be patient on extra #3 and lower grades," he says.

Contact: Matthew Machielse
(403)427-5387

Hog market timing not wild

Canadian hog market prices may work slightly higher this month, but history isn't on the side of higher prices says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

U.S. slaughter hog marketings should moderate and bring some price relief. "Likely," says Ron Gietz, "U.S. prices will be

Cont'd on page 5

pulled back above the $40/cwt. mark, and Canadian prices may also work slightly higher.

"However," he adds, "Mid-December to mid-January is historically the worst time to sell hogs in Canada, as local packers cut back operations sharply."

Allowing for both those factors, Gietz pegs his December average price forecast at $1.30/kg (dressed) for Index-100 Alberta hogs. His January forecast is for $1.25, moving to $1.35 in February, then slightly higher to $1.40 in March and April. His forecast is based on a 74 cent Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar.

Slaughter hog prices stayed low in November, although nowhere near as low as in November 1994.

Alberta volumes continue to run above year-ago levels, suggesting that hog inventories have increased modestly in the past year, he says. "Productivity gains in existing operations may also be contributing to the higher hog output," he adds.

Contact: Ron Gietz
(403)427-5376

Alberta 4-H dominates international judging contest

Alberta 4-Hers continued their string of strong showings at Agribition's International

4-H Judging Seminar by capturing overall and second overall grand aggregate awards, plus placing in six of seven categories.

Tyson Mitchell, 17, of Kitscoty captured the overall prize nudging out fellow Albertan Carla Dubovsky, also 17, of Busby by one point. Joining them in the top 10 were Andrea Nelson of Bawlf, eighth overall, and Coralee Armstrong of Dapp, who was ninth, at the competition in Regina.

"Six of the eight team members placed in the individual classes," says Henry Wiegman provincial 4-H agricultural specialist. "Such a strong showing indicates that the judging training happening at club, district and regional level is succeeding. Our judging program is envied by many of the other provinces."

Along the way to the overall title, Mitchell placed first in the swine class and second in overall oral reasons. Dubovsky was first in horse and beef judging and fifth in the swine class. Nelson was second in horse and Armstrong placed third in beef and fifth in sheep. Billie Dawn Chubb of Bon Accord was fourth in the beef class while Holly Johanson of Westrose captured second place honors in the written quiz.

Other team members were Reed Rigney of Bon Accord and Stephen Cholak of Lamont. They were accompanied by chaperones Ward Nelson, a 4-H leader from Bawlf, and Doug Murfin, a 4-H volunteer from Pincher Creek.

"Our Alberta team members have the benefit of a selection competition now held annually at Olds sponsored by Alberta Treasury Branches. Members go through an intensive program that we try make more difficult than any competition they will be attending," says Wiegman.

This judging program award trip was sponsored by UNIBLOK CANADA. "Communication skills, reasoning ability and increased self esteem are results members receive from participating in the judging experience," says Pat Wegnar, general manager of UNIBLOK CANADA, a division of Superior Feeds located in Rockyford. "We are proud to be in partnership with Alberta 4-H in sponsoring judging award opportunities."

Contact: Henry Wiegman (403)422-4444
Pat Wegnar (403)533-3820
Ward Nelson (403)373-2447

Balancing relationships with spouses and horses

The topic is more than appropriate for a conference dedicated to horse owners and breeders – how to balance relationships with husbands, wives and horses.

The speaker knows his topic as a psychologist and as a man with a passion for riding. Doug Lietzke specializes in sports psychology for riders and also is a national U.S. champion endurance rider.

Lietzke will open the *1996 Horse Owners and Breeders Conference* on Jan. 13 in Red Deer. The conference runs from Jan. 12 through Jan. 14 at the Capri Centre.

"I'm sure conference participants will be very interested in his perspective and suggestions. He's had over 25 years experience in the field and works with athletes and their families as well as other individuals," says Les Burwash, manager of Alberta Agriculture's equine programs and one of the conference organizers. Lietzke is based in Pennsylvania.

Lietzke leads off a diverse program for Canada's premiere conference for horse enthusiasts. The conference features topics related to equine production, business and riding. It's organized in four streams – Arabian, Quarter Horse, Thoroughbreds and all breeds – however participants aren't limited to any one stream and receive the printed materials from all the sessions.

Conference registration is the same rate in 1996. Registration is $75 per person with every additional person from the same farm at $50.

For more information about the 1996 conference, contact Burwash in Airdrie at (403)948-8532. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Les Burwash
(403)948-8532

MAP through an outlook range

From specific commodities to the general economy, and from short-term looks to the longer term, the *1996 Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP'96) Conference* offers a full range of outlooks.

"With mastering your markets as the conference theme, market forecasts and analyzing the general economy are natural fits for the conference," says Doug Barlund, 1996 MAP conference chair. The conference runs Jan. 30 through Feb. 1 at the Capri Centre in Red Deer.

Ron Crowe, who forecast a major recession when he spoke at MAP in the late 1980s, returns to look at the economy in the long-term. His analysis stretches to 2005 and beyond. The sessions will run twice on day one of the conference. Crowe has a financial consulting business and has also been a business administration instructor at NAIT for over 20 years.

"As part of his outlook, Mr. Crowe will discuss long-term trends and cycles and whether history is a good predictor of the future," notes Barlund.

Not looking quite as deep into the economic crystal ball is Tim O'Neill. O'Neill is the Bank of Montreal's chief economist and will focus on the Canadian economy in the short-term. Among his topics will be international trade and agriculture; financial indicators such as interest rates, unemployment, the Canadian dollar's value; and, current economic issues such as deficit control in federal and provincial budgets.

The short-term economic outlook sessions run twice on the final day of the conference, Feb. 1.

"MAP'96 also features three general commodity outlooks – one for grain, one for livestock and one for special crops," says Barlund. All three sessions will run twice.

The grain price outlook will come from Larry Ruud of Market Maximizer, Inc. Larry Hicks, a commodity broker from Denver, will provide the livestock outlook. Special crops will be handled by Matthew Machielse, an Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development market analyst.

MAP is Western Canada's premiere conference on leading edge farm management issues and is dedicated to *smart farming*. The conference includes a variety of farm business management topics including financial management, marketing and human resources.

Daily and conference registration packages are available for individuals and couples. There's also a special promotion for Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) beginning farmer clients.

Conference information is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and AFSC offices across the province. Registration and conference details are also available through the MAP hotline by calling 1-800-387-6030 or on the Internet at poole@agric.gov.ab.ca.

Contact: *Doug Barlund*
(403)556-4245

Agri-News briefs

World wheat prices still on the move

World wheat prices again moved higher during November with strong export demand coupled with low carryover stocks from last year says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "On North American exchanges, wheat rallied and recovered much of the late October losses to close similar to last month's highs," notes Al Dooley of the market analysis and statistics branch. "By late November, December Chicago wheat was trading near the $5 per bushel level and December Winnipeg wheat was trading near the $210 per tonne level," he adds. Dooley also notes that compared to this time last year Canadian wheat exports declined by over 40 per cent to 3.65 million tonnes. For more information, contact Dooley at (403)427-5387 in Edmonton. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

1996 lamb price prospects good

Several factors point to favorable lamb price prospects in 1996 says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. Strong domestic meat demand in the U.S. as the economy continues to expand is one factor. Another is the uncertain political situation in Quebec. "Likely our currency won't move up and the lower rate will shore up domestic lamb prices," says Don Hansen of the market analysis and statistics branch. "Alberta producers will likely remember 1995 fondly," he adds. "The low dollar, the ever tightening U.S. lamb supply and persistent strong demand caused prices to settle between $5 and $10/cwt. above 1994 levels." For more information, contact Hansen in Edmonton at (403)427-4011. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Doing Business On the Farm changes dates

Doing Business On the Farm trade fair and seminar has been rescheduled for one week later. Originally planned for Feb. 21 and 22, the event will now run **Feb. 29** and **March 1**. The Camrose Regional Exhibition is the location for *Doing Business On the Farm*. For more information, contact Thom Shaw in Edmonton at (403)492-3885, Wynn McLean in Camrose at (403)672-3640 or George Rock in Leduc at (403)986-8985.

So you're deciding to transfer the farm...

Veteran, Stettler, and Hanna will be sites of what is proving to be one of the most popular workshops in central Alberta this programming year. Farmers are showing a keen interest in looking at long range goals, planning for retirement income, examining tax implications of farm transfer, as well as different business arrangements that can be used to transfer the farm to another owner, whether that be a son or daughter, or another party. The Veteran and Stettler workshops will be held over a three-week period beginning January 9th. The Hanna workshop begins March 12. Jeff Millang, farm management specialist of Stettler, JoAnn Hall, family business specialist of Barrhead, and Jackie Anderson, rural development specialist of Three Hills, will be instructing the workshop. For more information or to register, call the Stettler office through the RITE line at 742-7500.

Elephants mix with horses

Mammals with four legs may be the only obvious connection between horses and elephants, but *1996 Horse Owners and Breeders Conference* offers another link. Brian Keating, the Calgary Zoo's curator of education, is the featured dinner speaker at the conference and his topic is the wild elephants of Africa. Keating, who has conducted natural history tours around the world, will take conference participants on an exploration of the natural landscapes where elephants are found as well as the elephants themselves. Keating's presentation is the evening of Jan. 13. The conference runs Jan. 12 through 14 at the Capri Centre in Red Deer. Conference registration is $75 per person with every additional person from the same farm at $50. For more information about the 1996 conference, contact Burwash in Airdrie at (403)948-8532. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

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AGRI-NEWS

December 18, 1995

Poultry producer honored as SPCA Farmer of the Year

Positive recognition for the feather industry is as important and satisfying to the 1995 *SPCA Farmer of the Year* as the individual honor.

Rod Chernos, who runs a broiler operation with his wife Nancy east of Calgary, says his award represents the care other poultry producers practice in their operations. "I'm not the only one," he says referring to fellow producers who incorporate birds' welfare into their production.

His award, he adds, "may even change preconceived ideas people have about intensive livestock operations." His family's operation had affected at least one person's perception of poultry operations. That person is Alberta SPCA president Joy Ripley who nominated Chernos for the award.

Chernos met Ripley at an Alberta Foundation for Animal Care (AFAC) event nearly three years ago. He invited her to visit his farm. Ripley was apprehensive about the visit and noted that fact in her nomination. "I had heard terrible stories about broiler operations before visiting the Chernos' barn, so I was prepared for a worst case scenario," wrote Ripley.

Instead, she was surprised and pleased from what she saw and learned during her visit and that eventually led to her nomination of Chernos for the award. In her nomination Ripley noted, "Providing an environment in which the chickens are healthy and 'happy' [Rod's word] for their short lives underscores the ethic of caring and responsibility which characterizes their management and husbandry methods."

The Chernos' loose-house their broilers in a well-ventilated barn. The chickens are kept on regularly changed deep litter in an all-in, all-out system. Automatic waterers provide a constant supply of fresh, clean water.

The Chernos family always wear blue coveralls while working in the barn. There are three reasons for the Chernos uniform. One, the color isn't threatening. The birds don't see well at the blue end of the spectrum so blue is non-threatening compared to white or red which can cause a near-panic reaction. Wearing the same color makes the birds comfortable and quiet because they recognize the coveralls as familiar. As well, the coveralls are part of the Chernos' biosecurity program.

A computer system controls feeding, watering, heating, lighting and ventilation. The computer system is accessible from virtually anywhere in the world. An advantage for Rod Chernos, also Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's manager of poultry programs, whose work has taken him to Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. He was speaking at a North of 60 Agriculture Conference in Whitehorse when he received news about the SPCA nomination.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch

Agri-News™ is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

The Alberta SPCA honors a farmer, teacher and veterinarian of the year. The farmer of the year award recognizes husbandry methods that include animals' psychological as well as physical well-being.

Contact: Rod Chernos
(403)948-8533

Alberta farmers favor dual marketing

A decisive vote by Alberta farmers favors a dual marketing system for barley and wheat.

"There was a very strong turnout for the plebiscite which tells me this is a very important issue for the farmers of Alberta," says Walter Paszkowski, Minister of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

A total of 16,151 farmers registered to vote during the last two weeks of November. This total surpasses the approximately 11,000 votes cast during the Canadian Wheat Board Advisory Committee elections held in the fall of 1994.

A steering committee of industry representatives developed the plebiscite questions. With that committee's recommendations, the government agreed to hold a plebiscite asking Alberta farmers if they wanted the freedom to sell their barley and/or wheat to any buyer, including the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB), into domestic and export markets.

On the question of options for barley marketing, 10,452 producers voted in favour and 5,395 voted against. For wheat, 9,701 farmers voted yes, while 5,890 farmers voted no.

The plebiscite was held in response to a motion introduced in the Alberta Legislature in January 1995 and unanimously passed by Legislature on Feb. 28, 1995. This motion called on the Alberta government to ask the federal government to amend the Canadian Wheat Board Act to allow for a continental market for wheat and barley, subject to producer support by means of a plebiscite.

"Alberta farmers have spoken loudly and clearly," says Paszkowski. "The federal government and the Canadian Wheat Board cannot ignore the views of Alberta grain growers. We are but one province regulated by the CWB Act. However, Alberta produces over half of Canada's barley, and Alberta producers have demonstrated that they want change. Alberta wheat producers also sent a strong message that changes are necessary.

"The results of the Alberta plebiscite must be recognized by the federal government and the CWB. The Alberta government is prepared to champion the move towards complementary marketing options."

Contact: Ron Glen
(403) 427-2137

Ken Mobolitny,
Alberta Grain Commission
(403) 427-7329

Harold Hanna
Plebiscite chief returning officer
(403) 422-9167 or 1-800-232-7387

Go salinity surfing on Internet

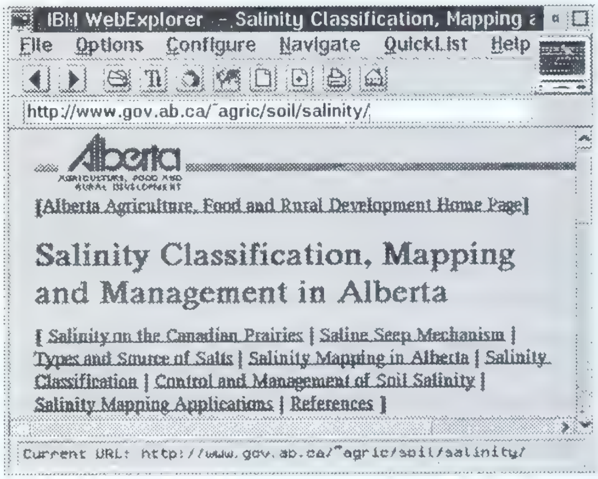
What the salinity home page looks like (old server address).

Alberta soil salinity information has just jumped onto the information superhighway with a home page on Internet's world wide web (WWW).

"To date, it is the only Internet home page with this kind of information," says Jan Kwiatowski, an agrologist with Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's conservation and development branch, who developed the salinity home page.

"We're capitalizing on Internet's popularity as a way to deliver information and services," he adds.

The salinity home page can be found at (on the new server): **http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/soil/salinity/**.



IBM WebExplorer - Salinity Classification, Mapping a
File
Options
Configure
Navigate
QuickList
Help
Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

http://www.gov.ab.ca/~agric/soil/salinity/

[Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Home Page]

Salinity Classification, Mapping and Management in Alberta

[Salinity on the Canadian Prairies | Saline Seep Mechanism | Types and Source of Salts | Salinity Mapping in Alberta | Salinity Classification | Control and Management of Soil Salinity | Salinity Mapping Applications | References]

Current URL: http://www.gov.ab.ca/~agric/soil/salinity/

This salinity home page provides access to information on the salinity mapping procedure, salinity types and control methods. The WWW site includes illustrations of salinity mechanisms, photographs of saline seeps and a sample (one township) of a municipal salinity map.

Data for the Internet site includes municipal soil salinity mapping the conservation and development branch started in 1993. To date, five municipalities have been mapped and four more are in the process. These maps show salinity location, extent and cause.

"The cause determines the control method, so with this information municipalities and other agencies can target

Cont'd on page 3

salinity control programs," notes Don Wentz, soil salinity specialist.

Other related salinity information is available he adds. The information is accessible to a diverse and broad audience – scientists to students, specialists to extension agents, and producers to the general public. Department staff can easily update the data and adapt the presentation format to meet changing needs.

"In particular, the salinity home page offers a fast and easy way to help municipal staff and producers recognize and select control methods for various types of salinity," notes Wentz. An important element of salinity control is understanding the way salinity occurs in the landscape.

Users can view the information and print all or selected pages. Users can also download the information for use in a number of projects.

"This home page has also opened up new opportunities to share Alberta salinity information with researchers around the world," says soil conservation specialist Leon Marciak. The salinity home page is already linked to information in Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's home page and can easily be linked to other related home pages.

Anyone with questions or comments about the salinity home page can call Kwiatkowski at (403)422-6530 or Marciak at (403)422-4385 in Edmonton, or Wentz at (403)381-5862 in Lethbridge. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Jan Kwiatkowski (403)422-6530 Leon Marciak (403)422-4385 Don Wentz (403)381-5862

Program lets producers compare crop varieties

Alberta producers will be able to try out a new system of comparing different crop varieties early in 1996.

The tool is the *Canadian Prairie Crop Variety Select (CPCVS)*, a computer program that compares crop variety performance. "For Alberta producers, this program puts an annual factsheet into high tech making comparing crop varieties much faster. The annual varieties factsheet is a tool many farmers use to select crop varieties. The computer program is an alternative method of providing the same information," says Jerome Lickacz, of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's agronomy unit. Lickacz co-ordinated the project for the department's plant industry division.

"Eventually we hope producers will be able to do comparisons beyond provincial borders and compare variety tests done across the Prairie provinces," he adds. For example, a farmer could compare how a certain wheat variety did in similar soil zones in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Generally, producers would use the system to compare the type of crop they currently grow with other varieties of wheat, barley, winter wheat, oats, fall rye, other cereal crops, canola and flax. The difference between the factsheet and the program is added flexibility in the comparisons.

In the factsheet, all varieties of CW Red Spring wheat are compared against Neepawa and all barley varieties with Harrington. The CPCVS program removes that limit. "The program provides farmers with the flexibility to compare varieties they're interested in growing with the variety they currently grow, not just a rating against a standard variety," he notes. And, if the farmer is interested in a factor other than the yield, the program can also rank a variety's performance by relative yield, days to maturity, lodging resistance and disease resistance.

Alberta has the lead role in the project, with significant department funding invested in the program's development. Manitoba has expressed interest in CPCVS.

Because of its Prairie-wide scope, the CPCVS project has received additional funding from the Parkland Agriculture Research Initiative (PARI) decision support systems committee. CPCVS was demonstrated at the PARI workshop in Saskatoon last month and reviewed positive reviews.

Lickacz says both the 1996 crop varieties factsheet and CPCVS will be available in January. "At this point we're looking for producer feedback on the system. During the testing phase we want to find out if there are glitches in the program or problems with clarity."

Producers interested in trying out the system should contact their Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development crop specialist.

Contact: Jerome Lickacz (403)427-7098

November cold and snowy

Alberta's November 1995 was both a cold and snowy start to winter says Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's weather resource specialist.

"The average temperature was 3.5 degrees below normal and total precipitation was 80 per cent above normal," says Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch.

"On average, November is usually the second driest month of the year so it doesn't take a lot precipitation to go over the long-term average," he adds. The 1961 to 1990 average is 19.7 mm. However, the province averaged 15.8 mm above the long-term average. Precipitation and temperature averages are based on data recorded at 46 Environment Canada climate stations across Alberta.

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The most precipitation was reported in Peace River region, amounts of 12 to 96 mm, or 90 to 344 percent of normal. In agricultural areas, Grande Prairie received 79.6 mm or 288 per cent of its long term average.

"All other regions also reported above normal precipitation totals, with amounts of 10 to 65 mm, or 100 to 270 per cent of normal," he notes.

The average monthly temperature for November was -7.3°C which is 3.5° below the long term average of -4.8°C. Most Alberta locations reported temperatures two to four degrees below normal.

Coronation reported a -9.7°C average, the largest variation from a monthly mean. That average was 4.1 degrees below the normal temperature of -5.6°C.

Contact: Peter Dzikowski
(403)422-4385

Production highlights at Horse Owners and Breeders Conference

Feed and reproduction are two of the production topics addressed at the *1996 Horse Owners and Breeders Conference* Jan. 12 through 14 at the Capri Centre in Red Deer.

Equine nutrition specialist Julia McCann will discuss how horses use forages. McCann, an instructor at the University of Georgia, has researched both palatability and digestibility of forages.

"Dr. McCann will help horse owners get a better understanding of the essential role quality forages play in an optimum performance or maintenance feeding system," says Les Burwash, manager of Alberta Agriculture's equine programs and one of the conference organizers. Also discussing rations is provincial horse specialist Bob Coleman. His topic is feed additives in horse rations.

Rudy Waelchi, from the University of Guelph's embryo laboratory, will discuss embryonic development in relation to a mare's pregnancy success. Waelchi has worked as a veterinarian in both his native Switzerland and Canada.

"Conference participants will also learn about another element of horse physiology – how they see," notes Burwash. Bruce Grahn of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon will explain how horses see.

The annual conference has four streams – Arabian, Quarter Horse, Thoroughbred and all breeds – in its program. Conference participants aren't limited to any one stream and receive the printed materials from all the sessions. The overall program covers topics related to production, marketing and riding. Conference registration is $75 per person with every additional person from the same farm at $50. For more information about the 1996 conference, contact Burwash in Airdrie at (403)948-8532. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Les Burwash
(403)948-8532

MAP past Crow and into the world market

The Crow will have been gone six months when the *1996 Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP'96) Conference* offers a session about how producers can compete nationally and globally.

Lee Erickson, a producer from Donalda, and Cliff Weber, head of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's agricultural transportation branch, will present a session titled *The WGTA and You* on MAP's second day, Jan. 31. This session will be presented twice on that day.

"Cliff will handle the historical perspective of the Crow rate and Lee, how he sees his farm competing in domestic and international marketplaces," says Doug Barlund, 1996 MAP conference chair. The conference runs Jan. 30 through Feb. 1 at the Capri Centre in Red Deer.

Producers in the post-Crow environment can also learn about new markets at MAP'96. "Mastering markets is the conference theme, so several sessions are dedicated to exploring the marketplace and marketplace information, as well as market outlooks," he adds.

In particular, Daniel Vézina will tell conference participants how they can gather market intelligence. Vézina will describe niche marketing, where to look for information about new markets, and what resources and opportunities are available. He'll also go step-by-step through establishing a new market and preparing your business for it.

Vézina is currently working for the federal international trade department. Mexico and Latin America are his areas of expertise.

The three-day conference also includes a look at the changing world of trade. Nithi Govindasamy, head of trade policy for Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, will explore GATT and the World Trade Organization's relationship to NAFTA and the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. He'll also examine trade policy changes, how to stay GATT "green" and explore the threat of counterveil action.

MAP is Western Canada's premiere conference on leading-edge farm management issues and is dedicated to *smart farming*. The conference includes a variety of farm business management topics including financial management, marketing and human resources.

Cont'd on page 5

Daily and conference registration packages are available for individuals and couples. There's also a special promotion for Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) beginning farmer incentive clients.

Conference information is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and AFSC offices across the province. Registration and conference details are also available through the MAP hotline by calling 1-800-387-6030 or on the Internet at poole@agric.gov.ab.ca.

Contact: Doug Barlund
(403)556-4245

Agri-News briefs

Alberta leading ag producer in nation

For the first time in history, Alberta became the leading agriculture producing province during the first six months of this year. The strong performance continued into the next quarter. Statistics Canada show Alberta's farm cash receipts for the first nine months of 1995 totalled $4.44 billion, a 7.2 per cent increase from the same time period in 1994. Alberta's strong showing in the first three quarters of this year comes despite a continued decline in direct program payments, which constituted only 2.9 per cent of total cash receipts. These payments have dropped 54.4 per cent. The livestock sector remained strong during the first three quarters of 1995, accounting for 53.8 per cent of Alberta's farm cash receipts. Crop market receipts made up 43.3 per cent. Farm cash receipts reached record levels of $4.92 billion in 1992, $5 billion in 1993 and $5.43 billion in 1994. Projections for 1995 indicate a 4.8 per cent increase is possible. For more information, contact Chuck Sterling, head of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's market analysis and statistics branch in Edmonton, at (403)427-4011.

Cattle Feeders' convention Jan. 11-13

The challenge of change is the theme of the 1996 Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association (ACFA) convention Jan. 11 through 13 in Calgary. Registration for the convention is by phone only. Call 1-800-363-8598 (Alberta only) or in the Calgary area (403)250-2509. Registration rates are available for members and non-members, individuals and couples, as well as for a day. Participants will be invoiced after the convention. A quality assurance short course kicks off the convention on Jan. 11. Keynote address is by Bob Peterson, president and CEO of IBP. Breakout session topics include right-sizing your feeding operation, improved profits by reducing carcass defects, improved efficiencies by team building, a 1996 weather outlook and the privatized grading system. Anne Dunford of Canfax will provide a cattle market analysis. ACFA annual meeting issues include agricultural taxation, cattle feeder access to water, government policies affecting trade, industry training programs and privatization of beef grading. For more information, call the ACFA office at 1-800-363-8598 (Alberta only) or in the Calgary area at (403)250-2509.

Canola Producers convention Jan. 16-18

Value added products from canola through genetic engineering is the keynote topic at the Alberta Canola Producers Commission 1996 convention in Edmonton. The keynote session is on the first full day of the convention, Jan. 17. The convention opens with registration and reception on the evening of Jan. 16. The commission's business meeting is the morning of Jan. 17. Other topics on the convention agenda are a canola market outlook and marketing strategies, product opportunities, grain handling and transportation, redesigning the Winnipeg Canola Futures contract, canola on the electronic highway and news from the Canola Council of Canada's crop production centres. Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Minister is scheduled as the luncheon guest speaker on Jan. 18. For more information, contact the commission office in Edmonton at (403)452-6487.

Short grass ranchers recognized for their stewardship

Brian and Debra Berg of Broadview Ranch near Wardlow in southern Alberta are the 1996 winners of the Alberta Cattle Commission's *Environmental Stewardship Award*. The Bergs, who ranch on the dry, short grass prairie, use a rotational grazing system that has provided sufficient grass even in the driest of years. Their management goal is to maintain a balance between the natural and domestic activities on their ranch. The ranch has several sensitive areas such as nesting areas for burrowing owls and great blue herons as well as once active sand dunes that now have stabilized under vegetative cover. These areas are managed for their protection with nesting sites left alone and vehicle access limited to permanent trails. The Bergs operate a 215-head commercial cow herd on approximately 10,000 acres along the Red Deer River. They also grow barley, oats and hay on about 250 acres of irrigated land. For more information, contact Brian Berg in Wardlow at (403)566-2193 or, Ron Glaser of the Alberta Cattle Commission in Calgary at (403)275-4400.

North American Safflower Conference in Montana

Great Falls, Montana is the site for a North American Safflower Conference Jan. 17 and 18. The conference features production tips from safflower growers on both sides of the border as well as research updates on breeding, diseases and weed control from U.S. and Canadian researchers. Crop reports from Canada, Idaho, the Northern Plains, Arizona and California will be featured. Pre-registration, before Jan. 10, is $25 (U.S.) and $30 (Cdn.) At the door, registration is $30 (U.S.) and $35 (Cdn.). Cheques or money orders can be made payable to the Alberta Safflower Growers Association and sent to the association at Box 822, Lethbridge, AB, T1J 3Z8 or in the U.S. mailed to the association in care of Wade Crouch, Montana State University, Box 5051, Great Falls, Montana 59403. For more information, contact Beata Lees in Lethbridge at (403)381-5127 or Crouch at (406)454-6980.

Aerating for water quality workshop Jan. 9

Aerating for Water Quality is the subject of a one-day workshop with displays Jan. 9 in Calgary. The workshop, at the Crossroads Motor Inn, is sponsored by the Alberta Renewable Energy Test Site (ARETS) and focuses on how renewable energy can be used to improve water quality and livestock production. Workshop presentations include the life cycle of a dugout, the effect of water quality and giardia on livestock performance, Alberta Cattle Commission projects, the Prestage pasture project, improving water quality by aeration, a dissolved oxygen water aeration project, the water quality survey project and an overview of systems tested at ARETS. Call (403)329-1212 to register by telephone, toll-free in Alberta by dialing 310-0000 and asking for 381-5729. The registration fee of $30 is payable at the door. Lunch, GST and **The Stockman's Guide to Range Livestock Watering** are included in the fee.

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AGRI-NEWS

December 25, 1995

The Equation is out

The equation that explains food production is presented and described in a unique new Alberta Agriculture in the Classroom resource.

Titled **The Equation – The Story of Science, Technology and Food in a Sustainable World**, the resource package takes its readers on a quest to understand the inputs that add up to agricultural production.

Through the eyes of an alien visitor to Earth and a young boy, **The Equation** is first a short story that explores the resources needed to make food. Six booklets – or modules – delve deeper into the major inputs such as land, water, labor and money needed to produce food.

"The emphasis is on critical thinking, risk/benefit analysis and the consequences of decisions related to scarce resources," says co-author Betty Gabert. Gabert is an Alberta Agriculture agricultural awareness specialist and co-ordinator of Alberta's Agriculture in the Classroom program. Her co-author is Patricia Porter.

"As the package itself explains, we hope readers – in particular students – will embark on their own quests for understanding, and like the boy in the story gain a clearer view of the food production equation," adds Gabert.

The package was developed with financial assistance from DowElanco. "Our intent was to put together a package for both teachers and the agriculture industry across Western Canada, however **The Equation** has already reached much farther," notes Gabert.

Gabert recently presented the package to the *Food Technology and Communications Network Forum in Montreal*. It's also had exposure in Paris. Next summer it will be the centre piece in a presentation to an international science and technology educators symposium in Edmonton [See related story].For more information about **The Equation** or a copy of the resource material, contact Gabert in Edmonton at (403)427-2402.

Contact: *Betty Gabert*
(403)427-2402

Alberta AITC featured at international conference

Alberta's Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) program will be in the spotlight when hundreds of science educators from around the world meet in Edmonton next August.

AITC and industry partners will present a three-hour session on the role of science and technology play in a sustainable food supply to delegates at the 8th International Organization of Science and Technology Education (IOSTE) symposium scheduled for Aug. 17 through 21, 1996.

"We're thrilled to have been invited to make the presentation and with the opportunity to show an international audience ATIC's integrated science and technology resources," says

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AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
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Betty Gabert, Alberta Agriculture agricultural awareness specialist and co-ordinator of Alberta Agriculture's AITC program.

"It's also an opportunity to solidly position the agricultural industry before the education community, show partnerships in resource development and especially to demonstrate the impact agriculture has in the economy, the environment and everyone's lives," she adds.

Gabert also has an invitation for the agriculture industry. "While AITC partners will be involved, we'd certainly welcome anyone in the agriculture industry to join the team and contribute to the Alberta agriculture industry session," she says.

The AITC presentation will include a multi-media show about technology and the food supply, hands-on workshops with AITC resources, a round table discussion with agriculture specialists and an introduction of **The Equation**, a resource that outlines technology's role in agriculture.

Between 400 and 600 international science and technology delegates are expected at the conference next summer. Local sponsoring organizations include Alberta Education and the University of Alberta. Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development is one of the key sponsors.

IOSTE started as an informal network in 1979. The informal exchange of world trends in science education was formalized as an organization in 1984. Its mandate is to advance science and technology education globally. IOSTE has members from over 50 countries.

For more information about attending the symposium, contact the symposium chair Raja Panwar at Alberta Education's curriculum standards branch in Edmonton at (403)427-2984 or on the Internet at RPanwar@edc.gov.ab.ca, or Sharon Jamieson at the University of Alberta's education faculty in Edmonton at (403)492-5339 or on the Internet at sharon.jamieson@ualberta.ca.

Contact: Betty Gabert
(403)427-2402

FBMI program calendars in your mailbox

The second edition of the 1995-96 Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI) program calender should be in all rural mail boxes the week after Christmas.

"The program calendar features descriptions of all the FBMI-sponsored programs scheduled for January through March 1996," says Nan Bartlett, FBMI peace region program representative. Included in the descriptions are dates, locations and a contact names and numbers for anyone who needs more information.

"Farm families can use this calendar to plan their winter education," she notes. Programs cover a variety of topics including wills and estate planning, marketing, diversification options, computers, financial management and communications.

The practical, hands-on training helps farm families improve their management skills and take control of their future. Program are provided by FBMI partners including private sector companies, universities, colleges and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development staff.

Also featured in this edition of the calendar is a summary of the plans underway for the new FBMI program set to begin in April 1996. "Farmers will have an opportunity for input into the planning process during the next few months," says Bartlett.

For more information on FBMI or for a copy of the calendar, contact the provincial FBMI office in Olds at (403)556-4278 or the FBMI regional representative in your area. The southern representative is Craig Smith in Glenwood at (403)626-3448 or fax (403)626-3461. The central rep is Delin Sheehan-Millang in Stettler at (403)742-5474 or fax (403)742-7527. The northeast rep is Elma Herde in Ardmore at (403)826-1959 (phone and fax). The northwest rep is Arla Trueblood in Dapp at (403)954-3745 (phone and fax). Bartlett is in Fairview at (403)835-4288 or fax (403)835-2899.

Contact: Nan Bartlett
(403)835-4288

Plan weed control in your shelterbelt

The difference between success and failure in a shelterbelt can often be measured by weed control says an Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development technologist.

"Weeds compete with tree seedlings and trees for moisture and nutrients," explains Craig Sprout, Airdrie-based soil conservation technologist. "Poor weed control is the most common reason that shelterbelts don't survive, or are stunted or sparse.

"So, when you're planning and designing a shelterbelt, don't forget to add weed control to your plan," he adds.

The first step in weed control is to properly prepare the shelterbelt planting site. "It's important to take the time to reduce the weed population before planting so it's easier to control weeds after planting," he says.

Shelterbelt sites should be prepared at least one year before seedlings are planted. Summerfallow a two to three metre wide planting strip. This cultivation, along with a glyphosate herbicide to control perennial weeds, will effectively reduce

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the weed population. As well, either in the late fall or early spring before planting, apply a trifluralin herbicide to help control annual grasses and some broad-leaf weeds.

Weed control continues after the trees are planted. "It's particularly important if site preparation wasn't adequate," he stresses. "Think of your back, the better the site preparation, the less hand hoeing you'll need to do."

One type of control is shallow cultivation of a two metre strip on either side of the shelterbelt several times during the growing season. As well, in-row control with herbicides such as linuron and hand hoeing are needed. Note, linuron should be applied when the trees are dormant in late fall or early spring.

"You do get a pay back for your investment," says Sprout. "A mature field shelterbelt not only has aesthetic value, but also provides protection for the adjacent crops and soil."

Applications for field shelterbelt seedlings will be accepted until March 1, 1996. These selected seedling trees are available free of charge through the Canada-Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (CAESA) program. For more information, contact your local Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development district office or Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) district office.

Contact: Craig Sprout
(403)948-8506

Perspective from Kentucky farm manager at horse conference

Even through there's a Triple Crown winner in the stud barn, Three Chimneys Farm doesn't rest on the success of the past. General manager Dan Rosenberg will share the farm's management philosophy at the *1996 Horse Owners and Breeders Conference* in Red Deer.

Rosenberg will make two presentations at the three-day conference that runs Jan. 12 through 14. In one, he'll discuss farm management to survive in a changing industry.

In the mid-1980s Three Chimneys took the unusual-for-the-time step of limiting its stallion population, but maximizing relationships with customers and animals. One of those stallions is Seattle Slew, the 1977 Triple Crown winner. Attention to detail and hands-on relationship with the animals is a major factor in the operation.

"Dan will also look at computers in the horse business – how they can be used today as well as potential uses," says Les Burwash, manager of Alberta Agriculture's equine programs and one of the conference organizers.

Rosenberg is one of the featured speakers in the conference's Thoroughbred program stream. The annual conference has four streams – Arabian, Quarter Horse, Thoroughbred and all breeds – in its program.

"Conference participants aren't limited to any one stream," notes Burwash. They also receive the printed materials from all the sessions. The overall program covers topics related to production, marketing and riding. Conference registration is $75 per person with every additional person from the same farm at $50.

For more information about the 1996 conference, contact Burwash in Airdrie at (403)948-8532. Government numbers are toll-free by dialing 310-0000 to connect to a RITE operator.

Contact: Les Burwash
(403)948-8532

Silver anniversary Banff Pork Seminar Jan. 23-26

There's a silver lining of top-rated speakers and subjects at the 25th anniversary *Banff Pork Seminar* Jan. 23 through 26.

"This seminar has established a tradition of providing the pork industry with the latest in production and technology to its delegates and the same is promised in the 1996 program," says Fred Schuld, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's pork programs co-ordinator.

The conference is divided into five theme sessions: nutrition profit drivers; re-thinking health management; money, marketing and manure – overcoming constraints to expansion; challenges to improved breeding performance; and, either a managing barn flow or managing breeding performance workshop.

Featured speakers include Tim Stahly, Kees de Lange, Bob Morrison, Gary Dial and Christianne Glossop.

Stahly and de Lange are in the spotlight during the nutrition session. Stahly, an animal science professor at Iowa State University, will discuss feeding for lean. Feeding for profit and growth modelling as an aid to production are de Lange's topics. He is an assistant professor in swine nutrition at the University of Guelph.

Morrison, director of the University of Minnesota Swine Centre, will provide a PRRSS diagnosis and treatment update as well as discuss the economics of contract finishing.

Also from the University of Minnesota is Dial, a swine production consultant. He'll talk about the factors driving expansion in the U.S. pork industry. Handling the European perspective on the same topic is Glossop, who is based in the U.K. and consults worldwide.

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Both Dial and Glossop will make other presentations related to their production expertise during the seminar. Dial will discuss risk factors in breeding performance and Glossop, boar management and the advantages of artificial insemination (AI).

Early bird registration, before Jan. 3, is $165 and $215 after that date. Any organization registering five people receives a complimentary sixth registration. All registered delegates will receive a copy of the seminar proceedings. The seminar location is The Banff Centre.

For more information about the seminar, call (403)492-2601 or fax (403)492-4265.

Contact: *Fred Schuld*
(403)427-4592

MAP out product profit positions

Be a price setter, not a price taker is the message Bob Church brings to the *1996 Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP'96) Conference*.

Church, who will speak twice on day two of the conference, Jan. 31, will discuss strategies producers can use to position themselves for profit. The conference runs Jan. 30 through Feb. 1 at the Capri Centre in Red Deer.

"Being an effective marketer is a key business skill for producers in a global economy," says Doug Barlund, 1996 MAP conference chair. "Dr. Church will describe some of the tools producers can use to hone their skills."

Church – an educator, scientist, cattleman and entrepreneur – will draw on his experience to talk about niche marketing, producing a higher value product and creating an image.

For those leading-edge producers who are looking at diversifying, Ron Pettitt will highlight how the Food Processing Development Centre in Leduc can help turn a good idea into reality. Billed as *products with pizzazz and presence*, Pettitt will describe how packaging, shelf storage and product handling standards fit in the value-added development equation.

MAP is Western Canada's premiere conference on leading-edge farm management issues and is dedicated to *smart farming*. The conference includes a variety of farm business management topics including financial management, marketing and human resources.

Daily and conference registration packages are available for individuals or for couples. There's also a special promotion for Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) beginning farmer incentive clients.

Conference information is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and AFSC offices across the province. Registration details are also available through the MAP hotline by calling 1-800-387-6030 or on the Internet at poole@agric.gov.ab.ca.

Contact: *Doug Barlund*
(403)556-4245

Agri-News briefs

FISP 1-800 line open

An information line about the Farm Income Stability Program (FISP) is now in operation. Anyone with questions about FISP can call 1-800-851-5070. FISP was announced in late November by Walter Paszkowski, Minister of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. The new farm safety net program is available for the 1995 tax year and is the first in Canada to offer whole income coverage and was designed to fit World Trade Organization/GATT free criteria.

CAAR conventional and trade show in Winnipeg

The Canadian Association of Agri-Retailers (CAAR) is holding a convention and trade show in Winnipeg Jan. 30 through Feb. 2. *CAAR for the future* is the theme of the 19th annual convention and its first national one. Until February 1995, CAAR was a primarily a Western Canadian organization that operated under the name Western Fertilizer and Chemical Dealers Association (WFCDA). For more convention information, call 1-800-463-9323, or about CAAR call the office in Winnipeg at (204)989-9300.

Provincial conservation workshop and farm tech trade show Feb. 22-24

AgriFuture 1996 Farm Technology Expo offers three days packed full of information sessions plus a giant indoor trade show featuring direct seeding. The combined conservation workshop and farm technology trade show runs Feb. 22 through 24 at Westerner Park in Red Deer. Activities include the 18th annual Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) meeting on Feb. 23 and *Direct Seeding Saturday* on the 24th. Save $30 on full workshop registration packages for an individual or a farm pair if you register and pay by Jan. 15. To register, call ACTS at 1-800-251-6846. For more information, contact Russ Evans of ACTS at 1-800-251-6846, Pat Kennedy in Red Deer at (403)343-6188, Keith Rideout at (403)346-3356 or workshop co-ordinator Randy Bjorklund in Edmonton at (403)422-4385.

10th anniversary Canadian Bull Congress Jan.19-20

The 10th annual *Canadian Bull Congress* runs Jan. 19 and 20 at the Camrose Regional Exhibition. The congress features livestock shows, educational sessions and a trade show. Livestock events include a pen of five purebred and commercial heifers, and bull shows. Speakers include Ken Aylesworth of Canadian Beef Improvement Inc. and Harlan Hughes, who'll discuss the economic reality of the beef cow herd. A 4-H program is part of the Saturday events. The trade show includes breed associations. For more information, contact Teryl Fankhanel or Judy Finseth in Camrose at (403)672-3640.

Provincial Rural Crime Watch Workshop Feb. 2-3

Neighbors caring about neighbors is the theme of the annual *Rural Crime Watch Provincial Workshop* in Calgary Feb. 2 and 3. Three Calgary area Crime Watch organizations – Cochrane, Turner Valley and Okotoks – are hosting the workshop. For more information, contact Lynn Roberts in Spruce Grove at (403)470-0627.

Cattle and crop come to Lloyd Exhibition

The Lloydminster Agricultural Exhibition Association will host two major agricultural events in January and February. First up is the 6th annual *Cattleman's Corral* Jan. 9 and 10. Cattlemen's Corral includes two full days of seminars, livestock displays and livestock equipment and supply exhibits. Keynote speaker is family consultant David Irvine who'll discuss managing change with perspective, courage and values. *Crop Visions'96* is Feb. 12 and 13. Both events will be held at the border city's exhibition grounds. For more information, contact Val Hanson or Michael Sidoryk in Lloydminster at (306)825-5571.

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